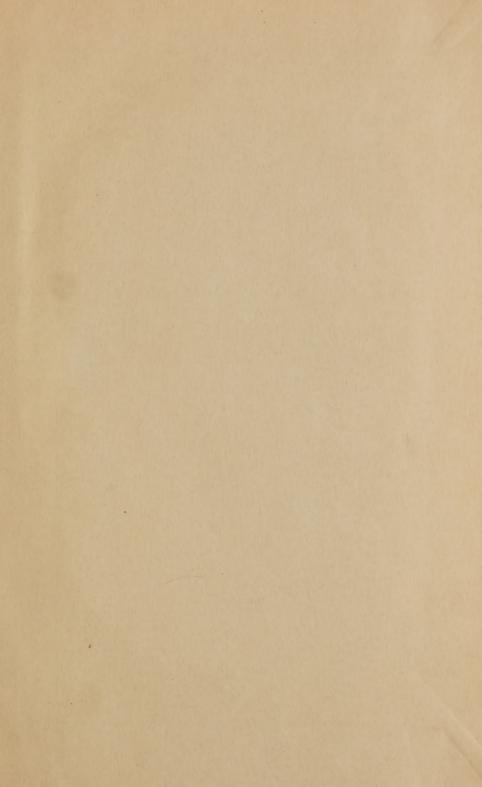
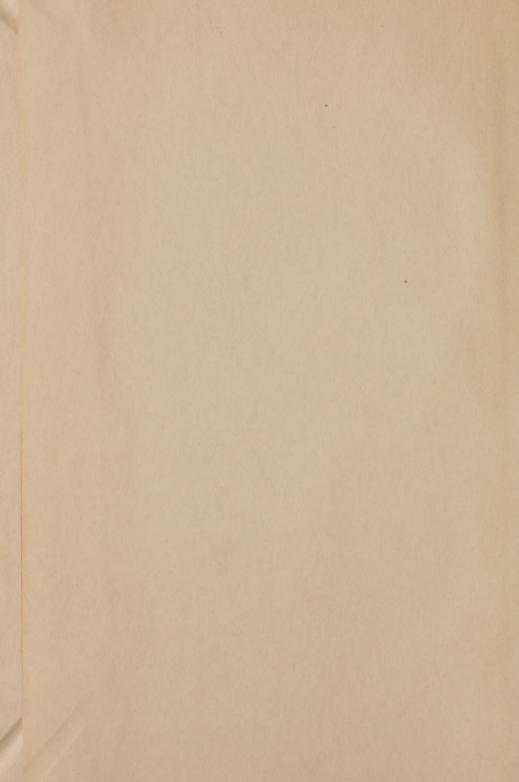


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Parish Lines Diocese of Southwestern Virginia





Parish Lines

Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

BY

CHARLES FRANCIS COCKE

Chancellor, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

1960

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PREFATORY NOTE

SINCE THE records of the Established Church in Colonial Virginia are official governmental records, the Virginia State Library has from time to time edited and printed parish registers and vestry books. While the accompanying study deals largely with the development of the Protestant Episcopal Church after its disestablishment, it is nevertheless an important study closely related to the growth of the Commonwealth. The early histories of counties and parishes are interwoven, and in tracing the development of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, it has been necessary to review in some detail the formation of new counties from old counties and new parishes from old parishes. Such lines of descent make illuminating commentaries on the westward movement of population and are of considerable importance.

The author of this study, C. Francis Cocke, has brought to his task a dedicated interest to historical and religious matters. As Chancellor of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, he is intimately conversant with the development of the Protestant Episcopal Church. As a public-spirited citizen who has served in numerous capacities on boards and commissions dealing with historical and educational programs, he has a keen awareness of Virginia history. This happy combination of circumstances has resulted in an interesting and useful publication.

RANDOLPH W. CHURCH State Librarian

June 15, 1960



PREFACE

THE COMPILER of these records desires to express his appreciation for the help and encouragement to complete this study which he has received from many of his friends.

In the initial stages of his research, Mr. Randolph W. Church and Mr. William J. Van Schreeven, of the Virginia State Library staff, pointed out the main avenues of research, which he has endeavored to follow. This advice was invaluable. Also, without the guidance and encouragement which he received from Dr. G. MacLaren Brydon his task would have been much more difficult. To Dr. E. G. Swem he is indebted for painstaking reading of the manuscript and for the many suggestions which he made for improvement of the text and to insure historical accuracy. To J. R. Hildebrand (a civil engineer by profession, but filled with the love of historical research) he is indebted for the carefully prepared charts and maps. To his secretary, Mrs. Mary C. Boggess, for accurate typing and retyping go many thanks for her help. These and other friends have made this study possible.

The compiler is aware of the fact that all sources of parish records are not known; some have been lost, and, unfortunately, some have been destroyed. From time to time old records are uncovered which throw light on present-day records. For this reason the compiler will appreciate the help of any reader who will call to his attention any error into which he may have fallen and any other and new sources of parish historical records.

C. Francis Cocke

June 15, 1960



INTRODUCTION

THE NAMES of the parishes of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia are intriguing; whence did the parishes come, when, and why? It is the purpose of this study to search out their ancestry and to see them firmly established in the structure of the Church. It is not the purpose of this study to give a historical review of Virginia or to recount the detailed life of each parish. Those tasks will be left for others to undertake.

Since this is a study of parishes, it is appropriate that at the outset a parish should be described. A parish is defined by Blackstone as "a circuit of ground committed to the care of one parson, vicar, or other minister, having the cure of souls therein." Parishes in the modern sense have been of gradual growth. Although parishes are a recognized element in the British Constitution and great care was taken to preserve their boundaries and to enforce the rights and duties depending upon them, it is curious that their bounds were never defined by an Act of Parliament, as ours in Virginia were in Colonial times by an Act of the General Assembly or otherwise. In England, like so many other institutions, they are the result of ancient and immemorial custom; in other words, they exist by the Common Law. At given times, representatives of the parish were required to walk around the boundaries of the parish to see if they had been maintained; this was known as "perambulating the bounds" of the parish.

The word "diocese" will likewise be used in this study. A diocese may be defined as a district in which a bishop has authority. A diocese is composed of the parishes within its boundary. In Virginia we have three dioceses, namely: the Diocese of Virginia, covering that part of Virginia, generally speaking, north of the James River; the Diocese of Southern Virginia, embracing that portion south of the James River and east of the counties of Augusta, Nelson, Amherst, Campbell, Franklin,

and Henry; and the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, containing thirty-two counties in the southwest section of Virginia, including the counties last mentioned. This section of Virginia is generally referred to as Southwest Virginia.

Our study will commence with the first parishes in Virginia and how they were created. From 1619 to 1785 the counties and the parishes were created by the General Assembly, except when Cromwell was in power under the Commonwealth. It is to be noted that under Cromwell in the period of the Commonwealth 1649-1660, for all practical purposes the Church in Virginia was separated from the State. The General Assembly delegated to the County Courts the power to divide into parishes those counties not yet laid out in parishes. Again, each parish was given the right to make its own choice of its minister, dependent upon the will of the majority of the parishioners. The King (Charles I), the head of the Church, was dead and his cause defeated.2 The parishes created between 1619 and 1785 form the first block of parishes.

After the establishment of the Diocese of Virginia at its first or primary convention held in Richmond on May 18, 1785, the parishes were created by action of the diocesan conventions. These form the second block of parishes.

In 1892 the Diocese of Southern Virginia was established, and it, in turn, created parishes within its boundaries, some of which were in the present bounds of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia; these form the third block of parishes.

In December, 1919, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia was established. Since that date it has created parishes within its bounds; these form the fourth block of parishes.

Since the parishes generally followed county lines, information about the creation of the counties is essential in order to follow the boundaries of the parishes. To make this study more comprehensive, the creation of the counties is set forth, together with their ancestry.

NOTES

¹ 1 Hening, 400. ² 1 Brydon, Virginia's Mother Church, 131.

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Historical Sketch



HISTORICAL SKETCH

THE FIRST permanent colonists, who landed at Jamestown in 1607, brought with them from England the Established Church with its Canon Law and the Common Law of England. Accompanying the first charter of The Virginia Company of London, bearing date April 10, 1606, are the "Articles, Instructions and Orders," bearing date November 20, 1606. It is interesting to read therein, among other things, the following with reference to the Church and the Civil Law:

... wee doe especially ordaine, charge and require the said Presidents and Councells and the ministers of the said several Colonies respectively, within their several limits and precincts, that they with all diligence, care and respect doe provide that the true word and service of God and Christian faith be preached, planted and used, not only within every of the said several Colonies and plantations but alsoe as much as they may amongst the savage people which doe or shall adjoine unto them or border upon them, according to the doctrine, rights and religion now professed and established within our realme of England. . . .¹

This leaves no doubt that the Established Church in England would be the ruling religious body in the new colony. Likewise the Common Law of England would prevail, since, a few sentences later in the instrument, reference is made to the Civil Law:

... moreover wee doe hereby ordaine and establish for us, our heires and successors that all the lands, tenements and hereditaments to be had and enjoyed by any of our subjects with the precincts aforesaid shall be had and inherited and injoyed according as in the like estates they be had & injoyed by the lawes within this realme of England...²

The recipients of the charter privileges accepted the charter with a clear understanding of what their responsibilities were as far as the Church Canons and the Civil Law were concerned.

Since the parochial system had long been established in the English Church, it was only natural that the same system should be ultimately established in the Colony. In conformity with the provision contained in the "Articles, Instructions & Orders," The Virginia Company of London made its first settlement a parish after the English custom, and elected a parish priest before the Colonists left England.³ The Reverend Richard Hakluyt was elected parish priest, and since he was expected to remain in England, the Reverend Robert Hunt, who came to Jamestown, was appointed the vicar of the parish and the pastor of the Colonists. These appointments received the approval of the Archbishop of Canterbury.⁴

Furthermore, The Virginia Company of London made a provision that each new group-settlement should become a parish and have its own minister. Here we have the beginning of our system of parishes in Virginia. History recounts for us the struggle which that noble band of Colonists underwent before a foothold and permanent form of government could be secured in the new Colony. In spite of these hardships the Colony grew, new settlements were made, and new parishes were created or carved out of the older parishes by the General Assembly.

Between 1607 and 1624 there were more than fifty sites occupied on both sides of James River, either by an individual settler, or by an independent group of settlers with certain privileges.⁵ The groups were sometimes known as boroughs, sometimes hundreds, and sometimes, particular plantations. The plan of settlement under the Charter of 1609 made definite provision for the Church's organization. The original four political divisions were called "corporations," "incorporations," or cities. Each city was to be a parish. But these cities, James City, Elizabeth City, Charles City, and Henrico City, were of indefinite extent, with vague boundaries. A group-plantation in any corporation or city, being at a distance from the city or

parish church, was recognized as a parish, separated from other similar parishes by intervening wilderness. It seems to have been well understood that the independent group-plantation or hundred was to be a parish with bounds coterminous with the civil boundaries. Each of these early parishes was either superseded by a later parish set up by the Assembly or by County Court order, or else formed the nucleus for a larger parish by the same name. The rule that each group-plantation should be a separate parish continued in existence during the whole life of the Company.

Sometime prior to July 30, 1619, the meeting date of the first General Assembly, Governor Samuel Argall, at the direction of the Quarter Court of the Virginia Company in London, located the then bounds of the four great "Incorporations and Parishes of James Citty, Charles Citty, the Citty of Henricus and Kiccowtan." The last was later to be known as Elizabeth City. For some reason the Eastern Shore settlements were not included. On July 30, 1619, there gathered in the church at Jamestown representatives not only from the four great divisions of the Colony created by Governor Argall, but also from seven boroughs, or hundreds, that is, independent group-settlements; two burgesses from each. Summonses had been sent to other boroughs, but they did not respond. This assembly, not unlike the English Parliament, was the first legislative assembly of English-speaking people in the Western Hemisphere.

The Colony was growing. In 1634 the General Assembly established eight shires, which were to be governed as the shires in England. The Act refers to them as shires, but after that they were always referred to as counties. They were as follows:

James City Warwick River (later Warwick)
Henrico Warrosquyoake (later Isle of Wight)
Charles City Charles River (later York)
Elizabeth City Accomack

The first six of these shires, or counties, were located along the James River. The seventh, Charles River shire, later York County, was located on both sides of the York River. It was the frontier county on the north side of the Colony. The eighth shire was Accomack, across the Chesapeake Bay.

As early as 1645 reference was made to Northumberland County, 11 but on account of Indian disturbances the county does not seem to have been formally established. However, representatives from that county appeared at the General Assembly in 1645 and 1647. 12 Later, by an Act of the General Assembly, October, 1648, 13 "the neck of land between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers be hereafter known and called by the name of the County of Northumberland, and that from henceforth they have the power of electing Burgesses for said county to serve at Assemblies upon summons from the Governor." This area had borne the name of Chickacoan.

The fact that the Church of England never sent a bishop to Virginia or to any other part of America throughout the entire Colonial period was a great handicap to the foundation and administration of the Established Church in Virginia. The Church in Virginia was unable to organize for the enactment of its own laws and the management of its own affairs. To alleviate this situation the Bishop of London appointed the Reverend James Blair, the rector of Henrico Parish in Virginia, as his commissary to the Colony of Virginia on December 15, 1689. Commissary Blair, the deputy of the Bishop of London in the Colony, was the first, as he was undoubtedly the greatest and ablest, of the commissaries selected for this important position; he served as commissary to the Bishop of London, without Episcopal powers, throughout a period of fifty-four years, until his death in 1743. In addition to these duties, he was one of the founders, and for fifty years the President, of William and Mary College.

The consequence of this situation was that the General Assembly asserted legislative authority by enacting laws for the temporal government of the Church. It established new parishes and consolidated others, defined parish boundaries, fixed the salaries of the ministers, and fulfilled those responsibilities which

ordinarily rested with an established diocesan organization. It was the intention of the General Assembly that every part of Virginia should be within a parish, so that the settlers would not be without the established forms of religious worship. We find in March, 1656, 14 an Act as follows:

That all counties not yet laid out in parishes shall be divided into parishes the next County Court after the publication hereof, and that all tithable persons pay 15 lbs. of tobacco annually.

Thus the Assembly empowered the County Courts to order the establishment of parishes within their jurisdiction. This authority had always, prior to that time, been exercised by the General Assembly. Due to the loss of County Court records it is difficult to ascertain the date of the formation of a number of parishes created by the County Courts. After the Commonwealth period, the General Assembly resumed its prerogative to create new parishes.

As the settlements moved westward up the rivers and northward toward the Rappahannock, the General Assembly created new counties. It was customary, when a new county was established, to create a new parish covering the territory of the new county. It must be remembered that neither the county nor the parish had a definite boundary line on the West, but extended in that direction as far as the settlement of the county had proceeded. Normally parish lines were the same as county lines, but in a few cases parish boundaries overlapped county lines.

The General Assembly, not overlooking its control of the parishes, enacted laws directing the election of laymen in every parish as the governing body of the parish in temporal affairs. The group was called the vestry. The following is an excerpt from the Act Concerning Church Government:¹⁵

There shall be a vestrie held in each parish, for the makeing of the leavies and assessments for such uses as are requisite and necessary for the repairing of the churches, etc. and that there be yearly chosen two or more church wardens in every parish. That the most sufficient and selected men be chosen and joyned to the minister and churchwardens to be of that vestrie.

The number of vestrymen was fixed at twelve, who were first appointed by the County Courts, but later elected by the parishioners. The vestry through the churchwardens were required to report twice a year to the County Court. The parishes were in many ways an integral part of the county organization.

Vestries in England were originally very different from vestries in Virginia. Originally they were not, as with us, a few men, but they were the whole body of parishioners. In the course of time a custom arose that a few parishioners were chosen to manage the business of the parish. They were known as "Select Vestries." In the reign of Queen Anne these "Select Vestries" were recognized. In England the churchwardens are the efficient functionaries in the parish; the vestries are not prominent. The word "vestry" does not appear in the Canons of The Church of England. The vestry system developed slowly in Colonial Virginia, but gradually the vestry began to play a very important part not only in the church, but in the county government. The vestry was one of the vehicles which carried forward the westward movement of Anglo-American culture.

The duties of the vestry were varied and reached down into the everyday life of the people of the parish. The first duty of the vestry was to appoint the minister of their parish. This was real achievement of the vestry system in Virginia. The vestries of the parishes fought Governor after Governor until they won the right for the vestry itself to choose the minister to serve their parish. In this struggle, Commissary James Blair supported the right of the vestry to select their minister. The second duty was to investigate moral offenses, and, if the charges were well founded, through the churchwardens to present offenders to the County Court for prosecution. The third and most important duty was to lay the parish levy and see that the parish lived within its means. The fourth duty was to care for the indigent of the parish.

Another duty of the vestry of each parish was the processioning of the bounds of every person's land which determined the record of land titles. Every fourth year, upon the order of the

County Court, the vestry, having divided its parish into precincts of convenient size, appointed two freeholders of each precinct to conduct the processioning and report in writing to the vestry, which reports were required to be kept in books provided for that purpose. The churchwardens were then required to certify the processioning records, and the law declared that processioning "at three several times" should be sufficient to fix boundaries unalterably.¹⁷ The processioning was accomplished in the presence of the land owner and at least two disinterested persons.

Since Charles City and Henrico were two of the original four great "Incorporations and Parishes," our study starts with them, to be followed by Charles River or York, later created as one of the eight original shires.

First. Two counties in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia descended from Henrico County and the parishes in these two counties came down from the mother parish, Henrico Parish. In explanation, there are included outlines of the county chain of title and the parish chain of title.

Second. Five counties in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia descended from Charles City County, and the parishes came down from the mother parishes on the south side of the James River. Outlines of the county chain of title and then the parish chain of title are hereinafter set forth.

Third. Twenty-five counties in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia descended from Charles River or York County, and the parishes descended from the mother parishes, Charles River and York Parishes. Again, outlines of the county chain of title and then the parish chain of title are hereinafter set forth.

MAPS

It is the purpose of the maps that are included to indicate the growth of the Colony by the gradual creation of new counties by the General Assembly. As the population increased, the settlements pushed westward along the main lanes of travel, the James, the York, and the Rappahannock Rivers and their respective tributaries.

The area granted to the London Company as set forth in the Charter of 1606 was described as a tract of land 100 miles square in the southern part of the area extending from the thirty-fourth to the forty-first degrees of north latitude, an area from the Cape Fear River in present North Carolina to New York City. The charter of 1609 changed this grant and gave title to "all that space and circuit of land" lying 200 miles north and 200 miles south of Point Comfort from the seacoast "up into the land, throughout from sea to sea, west and northwest, plus the islands within 100 miles of the coast."

The boundary line between North Carolina and Virginia was finally agreed upon circa 1730. The north boundary had been accepted as the Potomac River, which represented the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia.

In 1634 the General Assembly created eight shires. The boundaries of four of these shires, James City, Elizabeth City, Warwick, and Isle of Wight, were fixed by being bounded by each other. Accomac, across the bay, had its natural boundaries. The western boundaries of Charles City and Henrico extended indefinitely westward, frequently referred to as "extending to the high mountains." The northern boundary of Charles River extended to the Potomac River. Its western boundary extended indefinitely westward.

The maps are as follows:

- Map 1. Shows the original eight shires created in 1634.
- Map 2. Shows the original eight shires and the County of North-umberland, created in 1648.
- Map 3. Shows the counties in existence as of 1692.
- Map 4. Shows the counties as of today, and those descended from Charles City, Henrico, and Charles River Shires, properly identified.
- Map 5. Shows the counties in existence as of 1785 and the parishes located in each county.
- Map 6. Map in Vestry Book of Petsworth Parish, 1677-1793.
- Map 7. Shows the nine parishes in existence May 18, 1785, in the present Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.

The maps of the shires do not show James City County extending to the York River as it exists at the present time. At its inception, what is now a part of James City County along the York River was originally a part of York County. Several authorities are cited in support of this conclusion.¹⁸

CHARTS

The account of the descent of the counties and parishes from the original shires is complicated. Therefore charts have been prepared for clarification. It is to be noted in the county charts presented that the parent county, or the first mentioned county in the Act, is named in cases where portions of several counties were initially utilized to form the new county. For example, Bath was formed from Augusta, Botetourt and Greenbrier Counties. The chart will indicate Augusta as the parent county from which the greater portion was taken to form the new county.

NOTES

- ¹ Bemiss, The Three Charters of Virginia Company of London, 15.
- ² Ibid., 15, 16.
- ³ 1 Brydon, Virginia's Mother Church, 40.
- 4 Ibid., 1.
- ⁵ Hatch, The First Seventeen Years, 32.
- ⁶ 1 Brydon, Virginia's Mother Church, 40.
- ⁷ Mason, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, 74.
- ⁸ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 29.
- 9 Ibid., 30.
- ¹⁰ 1 Hening, 224.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, 294.
- ¹² *Ibid.*, 299, 340.
- ¹³ Ibid., 352.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 400.
- ¹⁵ 1 Hening, 240.
- ¹⁶ 2 Hening, 25.
- ¹⁷ 5 Hening, 426, 428.
- 18 Brown, First Republic in America, 313; Hatch, The First Seventeen Years, 32; Robinson, Virginia Counties, 36; Ibid., Maps 6, 7, and 8; Mason, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, 2; Tyler, Cradle of the Republic, 200 (Map).



Establishment of the Diocese of Virginia



ESTABLISHMENT of the DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

FROM 1607, the landing of the Colonists at Jamestown, to the adoption of the Constitution of Virginia in June, 1776, the Church in Virginia had carried on its services under the name of "Church of England in the Colony of Virginia." In response to "A Petition of the Clergy of the Protestant Episcopal Church" in Virginia the General Assembly granted a charter incorporating the "Protestant Episcopal Church" as of December 22, 1784.¹ Under this charter "the vestry of each parish and their successors forever are hereby made a body corporate and politic, by the name of the minister and vestry of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the parish." The adoption of this Act of Incorporation was bitterly fought in the General Assembly, and so much opposition continued that two years later the Act of Incorporation was repealed.^{2A}

In the meanwhile, pursuant to the Act of Incorporation there gathered in the City of Richmond on May 18, 1785 an assembly of clergymen and laymen to organize the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia. The meeting was held in the State Capitol. Here was a convention without a head, representing a diocese without organization, and laboring under the pressure of poverty and of opposition. At this meeting there were present representatives from 69 of the 98 Colonial parishes, 36 clergymen, and 71 laymen. Considering the modes of transportation and the distances to travel, this was a very representative body of clergy

and churchmen. The nine parishes then in existence, now within the borders of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, representing the frontier counties, had neither clerical nor lay representation at this first convention. At the convention held the next year the Parish of Lexington in Amherst County was represented. This was the only parish represented from the area covered by the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.

Although the "Church of England in the Colony of Virginia" had its birth at Jamestown, it is interesting to note that the name "Protestant Episcopal Church" was first used in Maryland.

It was in Maryland, at a small conference of clergy and laity in November, 1780, that the title "Protestant Episcopal Church" was first used. Later, at the first representative convention of the Church in Maryland, at Annapolis in August, 1783, the name was officially adopted, and before long widely accepted.³

The convention of May 18, 1785 proceeded with the organization of the diocese, adopted its canon laws, and elected clerical and lay deputies to a meeting of the representatives from other states to form a general convention of the dioceses established in the other states of the Union. This first diocesan convention did not elect a bishop. At the next convention of the Diocese of Virginia, held in 1786, the convention elected the Rev. David Griffith as bishop.4 His name and the names of the Rev. Samuel Provoost of New York and the Rev. William White of Pennsylvania were approved by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States and given formal testimonials to present to the Archbishops in England.⁵ Financial conditions in Virginia were such that the Rev. David Griffith was unable to provide funds for his journey to England. Bishopelect Samuel Seabury, of Connecticut, was consecrated November 14, 1784 by Scottish bishops. On February 4, 1787, bishops-elect Samuel Provoost and William White were duly consecrated in Lambeth Chapel and returned to America to begin their work. At the Virginia convention of 1789 the Rev. David Griffith addressed a letter to the convention relinquishing the appointment of bishop-elect. At the convention of 1790 the Rev. James Madison, President of William and Mary College, was chosen bishop, and on September 19, 1790 he was consecrated in England.⁶ There were now in America four bishops to carry on the English lines.

At the time of the organization of the Diocese of Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia extended from the Atlantic Seaboard to the Mississippi River. The westward flow of population proceeded slowly; the Church followed its people, but there was no strong organization in the frontier counties. It was not until the early part of the nineteenth century that parishes were established in that part of Virginia now West Virginia. The reports made to the annual conventions showed that the bishop in charge did an immense amount of traveling. Bishop William Meade stated that "Such is the extent of the Diocese, and such was the difficulty of traversing it, that for the first twelve or thirteen years, I was engaged in visitation during eight months of each year, traveling over large portions of it on horseback, or in an open one-horse carriage."

The interlude of 1861-65 and Reconstruction Days in Virginia form a sad and tragic period for the Episcopal Church in Virginia. With the formation of the Confederate States, the Episcopal Church in the Southern States took the stand that the civil separation caused by the act of secession in the several Southern States carried with it the separation of the southern dioceses from the federal union of dioceses forming the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. At the convention of the Diocese of Virginia on May 22, 1862 the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That this Convention adopt the Constitution proposed for the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States of America;

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention inform the Presiding Bishop of the adoption of the proposed Constitution;

Resolved, That in the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese the word "Convention" be changed to "Council," and the word "United" to "Confederate" wherever they respectively appear.8

Thereupon the Convention proceeded to the election of clerical and lay delegates to the Convention to be held in Augusta, Georgia on the second Wednesday in November next.

During those years the Church carried on as best it could. Upon the cessation of hostilities and the collapse of the Southern Confederacy, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States formally abolished itself in order that each diocese might go back to its former fellowship as a diocese in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. This was soon accomplished, without rancor.

As early as the Convention of 1842, the question was raised about a division of the diocese. This same question was before the Convention in 1866 and again in 1876. The Convention of 1877 consented to the establishment of the Diocese of West Virginia; this removed a part of the burden of travel on the bishop. The Convention of 1892, to exactly fifty years after the question of division of the diocese was first raised, consented to another division of the diocese.

The consent of the Diocese of Virginia to this division of the diocese was presented to the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States in October, 1892. The request received the approval of the House of Deputies and was concurred in by the House of Bishops. Pursuant to this action, Bishop Francis M. Whittle called a meeting for the Primary, or Organizing, Council to meet in St. Paul's Church, Lynchburg, on the 23rd day of November, 1892, to organize the new diocese. Broadly speaking, the territory allocated to the new diocese was all of Virginia lying south and southwest of the James River.

The Primary Council met on the day appointed. Bishop Whittle exercised his right of choice and declared he would continue as Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia. Bishop Alfred M. Randolph, Assistant Bishop, exercised his choice and became the first bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. The Primary Council completed the organization of the new diocese, selected the name "Diocese of Southern Virginia" for the new diocese, and adjourned.

From 1892 to 1919 the Diocese of Southern Virginia grew and prospered. On account of increased work in the diocese and distances to be traveled, the question of a division of the diocese was brought up. A study committee was appointed and recommended that a division be made. The Bishop of the Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Beverley D. Tucker, agreed to the division, and the formal resolutions were adopted. Proper presentation was made to the meeting of the General Convention in October, 1919, held in Detroit, Michigan; the House of Deputies approved the establishment of a new diocese, which was concurred in by the House of Bishops. Pursuant to this action, Bishop Tucker issued a call to the clergymen and laymen in the 32 counties named in the resolutions for the Primary Council to meet in St. John's Church, Roanoke, on December 10, 1919, to organize the new diocese.

The Primary Council was organized by the election of the Rev. Robert Carter Jett as Chairman and the Rev. Francis H. Craighill as Secretary. Bishop Tucker, exercising his right of choice, announced that he would remain as Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Bishop Arthur C. Thomson (Bishop Coadjutor) announced his decision to remain with the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

The Primary Council chose the name "Diocese of Southwestern Virginia," adopted its Constitution and Canons, and elected the Rev. Robert Carter Jett as its first bishop. ¹⁵ Bishop Jett was consecrated in Trinity Church, Staunton, on March 24, 1920. The organization of the diocese was complete.

The 32 counties comprising the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia are the following:

Alleghany	Campbell	Henry	Rockbridge
Amherst	Carroll	Highland	Russell
Augusta	Craig	Lee	Scott
Bath	Dickenson	Montgomery	Smyth
Bedford	Floyd	Nelson	Tazewell
Bland	Franklin	Patrick	Washington
Botetourt	Giles	Pulaski	Wise
Buchanan	Grayson	Roanoke	Wythe

The Primary Council of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia recognized the parish as the historical operational unit of the Diocese. The Constitution adopted at that Council provided:

ARTICLE XV

The boundaries and limits of the Parishes in this Diocese as they have been established by law prior to May 18, 1785, except so far as they have since been changed or modified by the Convention or Council of the Diocese of Virginia, or of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, shall continue, subject to such changes, alterations and additions as may from time to time be made by the Council of this Diocese under such rules and regulations as may be presented by Canon; and the Separate Congregations and Missions in any of said Parishes as they existed in the Diocese of Southern Virginia before the formation of this Diocese shall continue as such, subject also to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by canon. The Council may provide by canon for the admission of new Parishes or Separate Congregations into union with the Church in this Diocese.

Every Parish and every Separate Congregation within this Diocese, as now constituted and organized, or which may hereafter be constituted and organized, shall be benefitted and bound equally by every rule and canon which shall be framed by any Council acting under this Constitution for the government of this Church in ecclesiastical concerns.¹⁶

Originally, where there was more than one church in the parish a joint vestry was chosen. The same was true for representation in the Council. The parish was the unit recognized under the Canon Law. The fundamental principle was that there was no part of inhabited Virginia which did not lie in or come under the jurisdiction of some parish. The parishes taken together covered the State, and the rector and vestry of each parish were responsible for the churches within the territory covered by the parish.

From history and from the canons we learn that normally each parish was intended to be the cure of one minister, and each parish was to have equal representation in the Convention. As parishes outgrew the capacity of one minister, they were divided and new cures formed into new parishes as provided

by Canon. In one case this rule has been departed from, namely in cities or towns containing two or more congregations which are so intermingled in respect to residence that they cannot be territorily separated. Such congregations so established differ from parishes in that they have no territorial metes and bounds assigned to them, but they share the parish metes and bounds with other congregations, having equal rights within common limits.

Until the year 1812 the colonial parishes alone were the units which composed the Diocese, and were represented on equal footing in the Convention. The Convention of 1812 seated the clerical and lay delegates from Christ Church in Fairfax Parish (Alexandria County), and there also appeared a clerical and a lay delegate from St. Paul's Church in the same parish. Without objection, the Convention seated the delegates from St. Paul's Church and no limitation was placed upon their membership in the Convention. Here we have the first representation of a "Separate Congregation" in our diocesan organization.

The principle had been established. The Convention of 1814 under similar conditions recognized Monumental Church in Henrico County. From that time on, the establishment of separate congregations was well recognized in the Virginia dioceses. The following historical story in connection with separate congregations is interesting:

On the night of December 26th, 1811, the Richmond Theatre was burned to the ground, and many prominent people perished in the fire, which so impressed the city that soon afterward the Monumental Church, still standing on Broad Street, was built, by private subscription, on the site of that theatre. This church was organized by a congregation of Episcopalians who elected a vestry from among themselves. The church lay within the parish of Henrico, and this was the first departure from the old parochial idea. This vestry of the Monumental Church applied to the Convention of the Diocese which met in Richmond in May, 1814, for the right of representation in the Convention as a separate and independent congregation, and their request was granted, the congregation being described as "a voluntary association of individuals without any parochial charge." Bishop Moore, who was elected Bishop by that same Convention, became the first Rector of the Monumental Church, and

that Church was the first independent congregation established within the bounds of a parish having its own vestry independent of the vestry of the parish and having representation in the Convention of the Diocese. Later other independent congregations were formed, and canonical provision was made for such congregations. This provision is made by Article XV and Canons II and XIV of the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese. But it should be remembered that the organization of parishes is the original organization of the Church both in Virginia and in England, and that it is fundamental, territorial, and coeval with the Church in Virginia, whereas the "Separate Congregation" is not a territorial parish but is a provision for the convenience of such separate congregations. These two constituents of our Diocese should be carefully distinguished, not only as matters of fact, but because in the parish church and organization the responsibility of the church for the spread of the Gospel and the work of the church in the territory covered by the parish is especially emphasized. 19

A good illustration of this situation is found in Mt. Olivet Parish. The parish boundaries are the Big Lick Magisterial District, which takes in the City of Roanoke and the eastern part of the County of Roanoke. St. John's Church is the parish church. Christ Church is a separate congregation within the bounds of Mt. Olivet Parish; it was created as such by the Council of the Diocese.²⁰ St. Peter's Church, now dormant, likewise in Mt. Olivet Parish, was also created as a separate congregation.²¹ Recently St. James', St. Luke's and St. Elizabeth's Churches have been organized in the Parish.

In this connection, Canon 12 of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, entitled "Of Parishes and Congregations," recognizes the Parish as a unit of operation of the Diocese. This Canon defines the methods of ascertaining the boundaries of parishes and what constitutes the parochial cure. This Canon emphasizes the importance of the parish to the life of the diocese. The reason is obvious: What the territory of a State is to the Nation, what the Diocese is to the Bishop and the Council, that the territorial parish is to the rector and the vestry. Our whole system of church government is based upon the principle of territorial designation of authority, privilege and

responsibility. To disregard this principle in respect to parishes, by abolishing, or ignoring, or failing to define their limits is to court confusion and to invite discord.

NOTES

- ¹ 11 Hening, 532.
- 2A 12 Hening, 266.
- ^{2B} Hawks, History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia, 3. Containing Journals of Diocese of Virginia 1785-1835
 - ³ Addison, The Episcopal Church in the United States, 1789-1931, 57.
 - ⁴ Hawks, History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia, 17.
 - ⁵ Addison, The Episcopal Church in the United States, 1789-1931, 61.
 - ⁶ Hawks, History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia, 30.
 - ⁷1 Meade, Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia, 61.
 - ⁸ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1862, 23.
 - 9 Ibid. 1877, 65.
 - 10 Ibid. 1892, 59.
 - ¹¹ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1892, 20.
 - 12 Ibid., 21.
 - 13 Ibid. 1919, 69.
 - ¹⁴ Primary Council Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, Journal, 15.
 - 15 Ibid., 22.
 - 16 Ibid., 7.
 - ¹⁷ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1812, in Hawks, 88.
 - 18 Ibid. 1814, Hawks, 91.
 - ¹⁹ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1917, 50.
 - ²⁰ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1892, 83.
 - ²¹ Ibid., 1916, 56.
- ²² General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, *Journal* 1958, 35.



Parishes Surviving in 1785 Listed by Counties



PARISHES SURVIVING IN 1785 LISTED BY COUNTIES

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Charles City

Westover (1634)

Prince George:

Martin's Brandon (Before 1642) Bristol (Partly in Dinwiddie q.v.)

Dinwiddie:

Bristol (Before 1642) Partly in Prince George Bath (1742)

Greensville:

Meherrin (1754) Partly in Brunswick

Brunswick:

St. Andrew's (1720) Meherrin (1754) Partly in Greensville

Amelia:

Raleigh (1735). Nottoway (1780)

Lunenburg:

Cumberland (1745)

Mecklenburg:

St. James (1761)

Prince Edward:

St. Patrick's (1755)

Charlotte:

Cornwall (1757)

Halifax:

Antrim (1752)

Campbell:

Russell (1754) Partly in Bedford

Pittsylvania:

Camden (1766)

Bedford:

Russell (1754) Partly in Campbell

Henry:

Patrick (1779)

HENRICO COUNTY

Chesterfield:

Dale (1735)

Manchester (1772)

Henrico:

Henrico (1611)

Powhatan:

St. James-Southam (1744)

King William (1700) Partly in Powhatan

Goochland:

St. James (1720)

Buckingham:

Tillotson (1757)

Cumberland:

Southam (1744)

Littleton (1772)

Fluvanna:

St. Anne's (1745)

Albemarle:

St. Anne's 1745

Fredericksville (1742)

In Fluvanna and Albemarle

Amherst:

Amherst (1761)

Lexington (1779)

CHARLES RIVER, LATER YORK COUNTY

York:

Yorkhampton (1692)

Charles (1692)

Gloucester:

Ware

Abingdon (about 1650)

Petsworth

Kingston

New Kent:

Blisland (1653)

St. Peter's (1679)

King & Queen:

Stratton-Major (1655)

St. Stephen's (about 1680)

Middlesex:

Christ Church (1666)

King William:

St. John's (about 1691)

St. David's (1745)

Essex:

South Farnham (1692)

St. Anne's (1704)

Hanover:

St. Paul's (1704)

St. Martin's (1726)

Caroline:

St. Mary's (1686)

St. Margaret's (1720)

Drysdale (1723)

St. Asaph's (1780)

Louisa:

Trinity (1762)

Spotsylvania:

St. George's (1713) Berkeley (1770)

Orange:

St. Marks (1730) St. Thomas' (1740)

Rockingham:

Rockingham (1778)

Augusta:

Augusta (1738)

Rockbridge:

Rockbridge (1778)

Botetourt:

Botetourt (1770)

Montgomery:

Montgomery (1777)

Washington:

Washington (1777)

Note: The list of Colonial Parishes was compiled from the list filed as an appendix to *The Colonial Church* by Dr. E. L. Goodwin.

The county and parish charts hereinafter set forth give a graphic presentation of the descent of each county and parish from its original ancestor. The outlines appearing in Robinson's Virginia Counties, a bulletin of the Virginia State Library, and Robinson's Henrico Parish in the Diocese of Virginia, published by the Virginia Historical Society, have in general been followed.

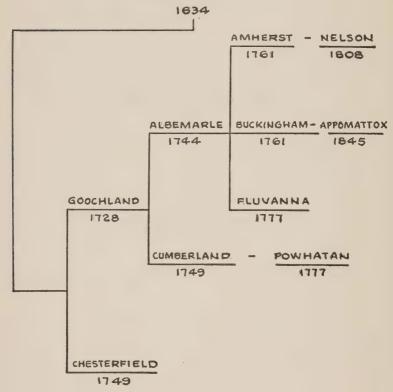
The counties have been set forth with the date of the formation of each county. The parishes have been set forth with the date of creation, together with the name of the county wherein the parish is located, printed below in parentheses.



Descent of the Counties
in the
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
from
Henrico County
One of the Original Shires

DESCENT OF COUNTIES

.FROM HENRICO



DESCENT OF THE COUNTIES in the DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA from

HENRICO COUNTY
One of the Original Shires

1. HENRICO COUNTY, 1634

HENRICO was one of the four great divisions created by Governor Argall.

In 1634, The Country was divided into 8 shires which were to be governed as the shires in England.

The names of the shires are:

James City Warwick River
Henrico Warrosquyoake
Charles City Charles River
Elizabeth City Accomack

Henrico County is described as extending from Charles City County on both sides of James River indefinitely westward.

2. GOOCHLAND COUNTY,2 MARCH 6, 1727

GOOCHLAND COUNTY was formed in 1728. No description or boundaries are given in Hening. The Act dividing the County

of Henrico and creating Goochland County is found in Robinson's "Virginia Counties":

That from and immediately after the First day of May next the said County of Henrico be divided into two distinct Counties—And that the Division be made by a Line on the North side James River beginning at the mouth of Tuckahoe Creek thence up the said Creek to Chumley's Branch thence along a line of marked Trees North Twenty degrees East to Hanover County And on the South side James River beginning at the Lower Manachin Creek from thence along a line of marked Trees in a direct course to the mouth of Skinquarter Creek on Appamatox River And that that part of the County lying below the said line shall for ever hereafter be called & known by the name of Henrico County and that that part of the County lying above the said line shall be called & known by the name of Goochland County.

3. ALBEMARLE COUNTY, SEPTEMBER, 1744

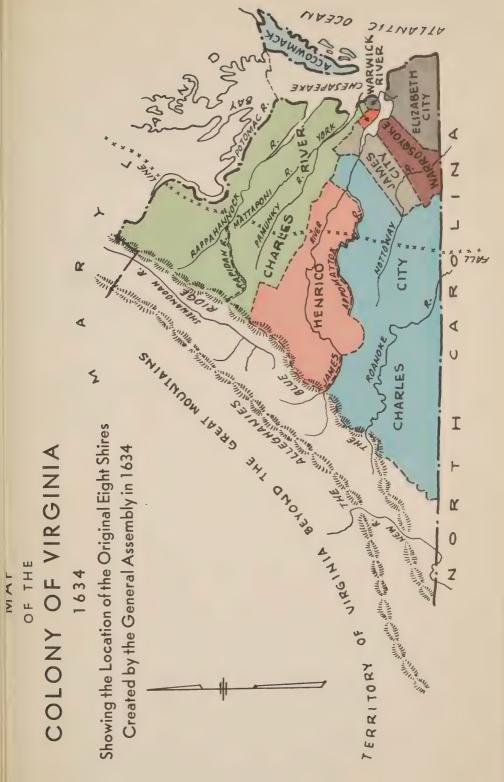
An Act for dividing the County of Goochland:

That from and immediately after the last day of December next, the said County of Goochland be divided by a line to be run from the point of the fork of James river, north 30° east to Louisa county line; and from the said point of fork a direct course to Brook's mill; and from thence the same course continued to Appomattox river. And that part of said county which lies below the said line be erected into one distinct county & retain the name of Goochland and the other part thereof above the said line be one other distinct county & called by the name of the County of Albemarle.

4. AMHERST COUNTY,4 MARCH, 1761

An Act for dividing the counties of Albemarle and Louisa:

That from and after the first day of May next the said County of Albemarle shall be divided into three distinct counties; that is to say, all that part of the said county which lies on the south side of the Fluvanna [James] river shall be one distinct county, and called & known by the name of Buckingham; and that all that other part of said county which lies on the north side of the Fluvanna river shall be divided, from the confluence of Rockfish river with the Fluvanna, by Rockfish river to the mouth of Green creek, and thence a straight line to the house of Thomas Bell to the Blue Mountains; and that all that part which lies above Rockfish river and the line aforesaid, shall be another distinct county, and





shall be called and known by the name of Amherst; and that all that other part of said county that lies below Rockfish river and the said line, together with that part of the county of Louisa that lies above a line to be run from the present line, between the said counties of Albemarle & Louisa, beginning on the ridge between Machumps creek and Beaver Dam swamp, thence along said ridge until the line may be intersected by an east course from the widow Cobb's plantation, and from such intersection a direct course to the line of Orange county, opposite to the plantation of Ambrose Coleman, shall be one other distinct county & retain the name of Albemarle.

5. NELSON COUNTY, DECEMBER 23, 1807

In 1808 Amherst was divided according to its parish lines; that is, the line between Amherst Parish and Lexington Parish. The upper part of the county which lay in Amherst Parish took the name of Nelson County. The parish retaining the name of Amherst for a time, in Nelson County, soon took the name Nelson Parish.

NOTES

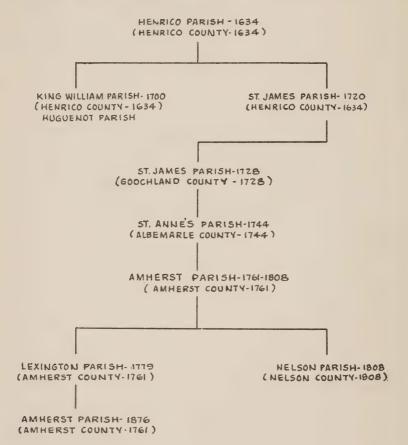
- ¹ 1 Hening, 224.
- ² Robinson, Virginia Counties, 201.
- ³ 5 Hening, 266.
- ⁴ 7 Hening, 419.
- ⁵ 3 Shepherd, 378.



Henrico Parish
and the Parishes in the
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
Descended Therefrom

- HENRICO PARISH -

AND THE PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA DESCENDED THEREFROM.



HENRICO PARISH AND THE PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA DESCENDED THEREFROM

HENRICO PARISH 1634

(Henrico County 1634)

Henrico Parish may be said to date from the year 1611,¹ at which time a settlement was made at a site now known as Farrar's Island and called the City of Henrico and a church built. Henrico, including the city and a vast territory beyond, was one of the four great divisions, or corporations, of the colony created by Governor Argall, and likewise it was one of the original shires created in 1634.² At that time there were, of course, no regulations of parish bounds; subsequently each corporation, group-settlement, borough or particular plantation supplied with a church was called a parish.

Henrico County was described as extending on both sides of the James River from the Charles City County line indefinitely westward. Henrico Parish was coterminous with the county and originally covered the whole valley of the James River on both sides and extended westward.

KING WILLIAM PARISH 1700 (Henrico County 1634)

KING William Parish was formed by an Act of the General Assembly in December, 1700.³ No parish boundaries are set forth

in the Act. The Act states that a considerable number of French Protestant refugees had seated themselves above the Falls on the James River near Manakin Town on the south side of the river. In order to keep them together, the Act provided that "the land they now occupy or may hereafter possess shall be a parish of itself and known as King William Parish in the County of Henrico." This parish was created to enable the Huguenots to have their own church and pastor and set their own parish tithes.

When Goochland County was formed from Henrico in 1728,⁴ the greater portion of King William Parish fell in Goochland County. The parish, or a portion of it, was in the following counties for the periods indicated: Henrico (1700-1749); Goochland (1728-1749); Cumberland (1749-1777); and Powhatan 1777 to date. No portion of this parish became a part of St. James Parish (Henrico) or St. James Parish (Goochland).⁵ Since no exact boundaries of the parish were found, it has been difficult to locate the parish except in general terms. Reference is made to Robinson's "Henrico Parish in the Diocese of Virginia" for a detailed analysis of the evidence supporting each theory of its boundaries.

NOTE: The chain of parishes through which the parishes of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia claim descent from Henrico Parish does not include King William Parish. It is included here as an interesting historical parish in Henrico County.

ST. JAMES PARISH 1720 (Henrico County 1634)

In 1720 Henrico Parish (Henrico) was divided into two parishes, and St. James Parish (Henrico) was created; the lower part, on both sides of the river, to continue as Henrico Parish, and the upper part, on both sides of the river, to be known as St. James Parish (Henrico).⁷ The Act of division is as follows:

That from and after the passing of this Act the said Parish of Henrico be divided into Two distinct Parishes and that the division of the said Parishes on the North side of James River be from the Mouth of the Little Westham Creek and up that Creek to the main road and from thence a North Course to New Kent County. And that the division of the said Parishes on the South Side James River be from the River along the Upper line of the Land appropriated for the French Refugees & from that Line a South Course to Apamatock River.

AND BE it further ENACTED That the Lower part of the said Parish on both sides James River shall remain and hereafter be called and known by the Name of Henrico parish And that the Upper part of the said Parish shall hereafter be called and knowne by the Name of the Parish of Saint James.

ST. JAMES PARISH 1728

(Goochland County 1728)

IN 1728 when Henrico County was divided and Goochland County was formed, St. James Parish (Henrico) was in Goochland County and then became St. James Parish (Goochland). Goochland County and St. James Parish (Goochland) extended indefinitely westward. The Act creating St. James Parish (Goochland) provides:

And all that part of the parish of Henrico lying above the said line shall be included in and be part of the Parish of St. James and all that part of the said Parish of St. James lying below the said line shall be included in and be part of the Parish of Henrico.

ST. ANNE'S PARISH 1744

(Albemarle County 1744)

In 1744, because of rapidly expanding population, St. James Parish and Goochland County were divided into three counties, each with its own parish. The whole western part on both sides of the James River was formed into Albemarle County and St. Anne's Parish. The eastern part was divided by the James River, with the section north of the James continuing to exist as Goochland, and its former parish, named St. James Parish, being given the new name of "St. James, Northam Parish." The section south of the river was formed into a new county named Cumber-

land, and its new parish was named Southam Parish. By this Act, Albemarle County was formed. The Act⁹ provides:

That from & after the last of December, the said parish of St. James shall be divided into three parishes; that is to say, all that part of the said parish that lies in the County of Albemarle shall thereafter be esteemed one distinct parish and be called & known by the name of St. Anne's, and all that part of the said parish which lies on the north side of James River, in the County of Goochland aforesaid, shall be esteemed one distinct parish & be called & known by the name of St. James, Northam; and all that other part thereof which lies on the south side of the said river aforesaid shall be erected into one other distinct parish & called by the name of Southam.

AMHERST PARISH 1761-1808

(Amherst County 1761)

THE Act¹⁰ dividing Albemarle County and creating Amherst County also divided St. Anne's Parish as follows:

That from and after the first day of May next the said parish (St. Anne's) shall be divided into two distinct parishes, in the following manner, that is to say, by Rockfish river to the mouth of Green Creek, thence a straight line by the house of Thomas Bell to the Blue Mountains, and that all that part of said parish that lies above the said river and line shall be one distinct parish, and shall be called and known by the name of Amherst; and that all that other part of said parish that lies below the said river and line shall be one distinct parish and retain the name of St. Anne.

The original Amherst Parish was divided in 1778 and Lexington Parish was created. Amherst County then had two parishes, Amherst Parish and Lexington Parish. That portion of the county containing Amherst Parish was taken from Amherst County and Nelson County was created therefrom. The original Amherst Parish became extinct in 1808 on the erroneous assumption that Nelson Parish had been created, when as a matter of record it was Amherst Parish in Nelson County. No record has been found showing the creation of Nelson Parish.

LEXINGTON PARISH 1779

(Amherst County 1761)

By an Act¹³ of the General Assembly passed in October, 1778, the parish of Amherst was divided into two parishes:

... that all that part of said parish which lies on the lower side of the said line shall be one distinct parish and retain the name of Amherst, and that all that part of said parish which lies on the upper side of the said line shall be one other distinct parish and be called and known by the name of Lexington.

Later, to make a more equal and just division, the boundaries between Amherst and Lexington Parishes were re-located, in October, 1780.¹⁴

Be it therefore enacted, That, instead of the dividing line mentioned in the said Act, the said parishes shall be divided by the following lines, to-wit:

Beginning on the Fluvanna [James] River at the mouth of Elk Island Creek, and with said creek to Hilton's Mill, from thence a direct line to Tye River at the mouth of Camp Creek, thence up Tye River to the mouth of Piney River, thence up Piney River to Rose's mill, thence continued up Piney River to the fork thereof above Lucas Powell's plantation, and thence up the north fork to the Blue Ridge.

NELSON PARISH 1808

(Nelson County 1808)

In 1808, Nelson County was formed from Amherst County. In spite of the mention of Nelson Parish in Nelson County as early as 1830 in Hawks¹⁵ and almost continuously in the Journals of the Diocese of Virginia 1836-1892; of Southern Virginia 1892-1919; and of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia 1919-1958, it has been impossible to find any action, either legislative or canonical, forming a Nelson Parish in Nelson County.

AMHERST PARISH 1876

(Amherst County 1761)

SINCE that portion of Amherst Parish of 1761 included in Nelson County became extinct when Nelson County was created in 1808, it was but natural that the name should be revived in Amherst County. It was also fitting that the name "Amherst" should have been given to a portion of the original area of 1761 which was done when the present Amherst Parish was formed from Lexington Parish in 1876. The boundaries of the new Amherst Parish are given as follows:

Those boundaries known as belonging to Pedlar township, and all that part of Elon township that lies to the west of the Virginia Midland railroad; or in other words, the northern boundary of the Elon section of the Parish will be the Lynchburg Road from Ware's Gap across to Cool Well; the eastern boundary the Virginia & Midland Railroad; the southern boundary the James River; the western boundary the Tobacco Row mountains to Ware's Gap.

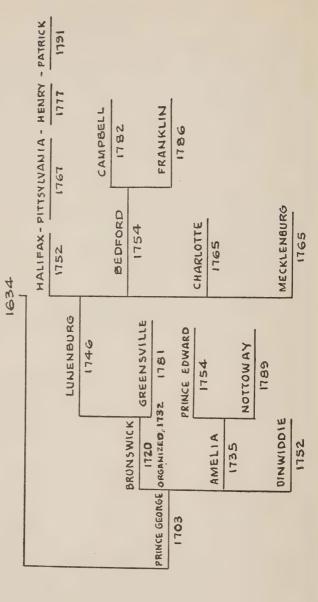
The boundary of Pedlar will be the Blue Mountains on the west, the James River on the south, the Tobacco Row mountains on the east; and the road from Amherst Courthouse to Lexington on the north.

NOTES

- ¹ Barton, Virginia Colonial Decisions, 78.
- ² Robinson, Virginia Counties, 36.
- ³ 3 Hening, 201, 478.
- ⁴ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 201.
- ⁵ Robinson, Henrico Parish in the Diocese of Virginia, 13.
- ⁶ Ibid., 12 et seq.
- 7 Ibid., 28.
- 8 Ibid., 29.
- ⁹ 5 Hening, 266.
- ¹⁰ 7 *Ibid.*, 419.
- 11 9 Ibid., 567.
- ¹² 3 Shepherd, 378,
- 13 9 Hening, 567.
- ¹⁴ 10 *Ibid.*, 369.
- ¹⁵ Hawks, History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia, 248. (Containing Journals of Diocese of Virginia 1785-1835)
 - ¹⁶ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1876, 76.

Descent of the Counties
in the
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
from
Charles City County
One of the Original Shires

DESCENT OF COUNTIES



DESCENT OF THE COUNTIES in the

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA

from

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

One of the Original Shires

1. CHARLES CITY COUNTY, JANUARY, 1634

CHARLES City County was one of the four great divisions created by Governor Argall. In 1634 the Country was divided into eight shires, to be governed as the shires in England. Charles City County was named one of the shires.

The names of the shires are:

James City Henrico Charles City Elizabeth City Warwick River Warrosquyoake Charles River Accomack

Charles City County is described as extending on both sides of James River, on south side from Upper Chippokes Creek to Henrico County, and on the north side from Sandy Point to Henrico County.

2. PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY,2 AUGUST, 1702

An Act, given by title only in Hening, dividing Charles City County merely states Prince George County was formed; no boundary given. The Act in full for dividing Charles City County is found in Robinson's Virginia Counties, p. 199. The Act provides:

And that part of said County which is and lyes on the South Side of the said river (James) shall remain and forever thereafter be called and knowne by the name of Prince George County.

It is certain that, in addition to the present county of Prince George, the counties of Dinwiddie, Amelia, Nottaway, Brunswick, and Prince Edward, and the counties formed therefrom, were included.³

3. BRUNSWICK COUNTY, 4 NOVEMBER, 1720

An Act for erecting the Counties of Spotsylvania and Brunswick:

Brunswick county begins on the south side of the river Roanoke, at the place where the line lately run for ascertaining the uncontroverted bounds of this colony towards North Carolina, intersects the said river Roanoke, and to be bounded by the direction of the governour with consent of the council, so as to include the southern pass, which land from and after the time that it shall be laid off and bounded, shall become a county by the name of Brunswick.

The whole county of Spotsylvania made one parish by the name of St. George, and that of Brunswick one parish by the name of St. Andrew. This evidently became effective May 1, 1721, the same as Spotsylvania; however, by reason of a small number of tithables the county did not become organized until May 1732, when parts of the Counties of Surry, Isle of Wight, and part of the parishes of Lawne's Creek, Southwark and Warwicksqueak in the Counties of Surry and Isle of Wight became a part of the parish of St. Andrew's in Brunswick County.⁵

1723—It is ordered That the bounds of the said county of Brunswick be as followeth Viz: Beginning where the upper line of Surry County crosses Nottoway River and running thence a straight Course to Maherine River to or near the Mouth of the Reedy Creek or branch, thence down Maherine River to the lower part of Surry County thence a South Course to the Line lately run for ascertaining the uncontroverted Bounds of this Colony towards No. Carolina, and that the Northern Line of the said County of Brunswick begin at the mouth of the said Reedy Branch, and run up the North branch of Nottoway River to the Head thereof, and hence a Northwest line to the Mountains.⁶

1730—It is ordered that the line of the said County of Brunswick do extend to Appamatox River and no farther, and from thence the said River to be the Boundary between the two said counties [Brunswick and Goochland]⁷

4. LUNENBURG COUNTY,8 FEBRUARY, 1745

An Act, for dividing the County of Brunswick and parish of St. Andrew:

That from and immediately after the first day of May next, the said county of Brunswick be divided, by a line run from the county line, where it crosses Roanoke river, below the place called the Horse-Foard, to strike Nottoway river at the fork and that part of the said county which lies below the said line, be erected into one distinct county and retain the name of Brunswick; and all that other part thereof above the said line, be one other distinct county, and called by the name of the County of Lunenburg. And for the due administration of justice.

5. HALIFAX COUNTY, FEBRUARY, 1752

An Act, for dividing the County of Lunenburg, and the parish of Cumberland:

That from and immediately after the tenth day of May next ensuing, the said county of Lunenburg be divided into two counties, that is to say, all that part thereof lying on the south side of Black-water creek and Staunton river, from the said Black-water creek, to the confluence of said river with the river Dan and from thence to Aaron's creek to the county line shall be one distinct county and parish and called and known by the name of Halifax, and parish of Antrim; and all that other part thereof, on the north side of Staunton river, from the lower part to the extent of the county upwards, shall be one other distinct county and retain the name of Lunenburg and parish of Cumberland.

6. PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY, 10 NOVEMBER, 1766

An Act, for dividing the County of Halifax and parish of Antrim:

That from and after the first day of June, next ensuing, the said county of Halifax be divided into two counties, by a line to be run from the mouth of Strait Stone Creek, on Staunton river, to the county line, near the mouth of the county line creek, on Dan river, and all that part of the said county which lies on the upper side of the line, shall be one

other distinct county and called and known by the name of Pittsylvania and that all the other part thereof which is below such line shall be one other distinct county and retain the name of Halifax.

7. HENRY COUNTY,11 OCTOBER, 1776

An Act dividing the county of Pittsylvania into two distinct counties:

That from and after the last day of December next ensuing the said county of Pittsylvania be divided into two counties, by a line beginning at the mouth of Blackwater, on Staunton river, and running parallel with the line of Halifax county till it strikes the county line and that all that part of the said county which lies to the westward of said line shall be one distinct county and called and known by the name of Henry, and that all the other part thereof which lies to the eastward of the said line shall be one other distinct county and retain the name of Pittsylvania.

8. PATRICK COUNTY, 12 OCTOBER, 1790

An Act for dividing the county of Henry:

That from and after the first day of June next, the county of Henry shall be divided into two distinct counties, that is to say, all that part of said county lying west of a line beginning on the line dividing the counties of Henry and Franklin, one mile above where it crosses the Town creek, a branch of Smith river, thence a parallel line with Pittsylvania line to the county line, shall be one distinct county, and called and known by the name of Patrick, and all the residue of the said county retain the name of Henry.

From Lunenburg came Bedford in 1754. From Bedford came Campbell in 1782 and Franklin in 1786.

9. BEDFORD COUNTY,13 NOVEMBER, 1753

An Act for dividing the County of Lunenburg, and parish of Cumberland:

That from and immediately after the tenth day of May next ensuing, the said County of Lunenburg be divided, from the mouth of Falling river, up the said river to the fork, thence up that fork, running by John Beard's to the head, thence by a line to be run from the head thereof north twenty degrees east, to the line dividing said county from the County of Albemarle; and all that part of the said County of Lunenburg, which lies on the upper side of the said river, and the line to be run as

aforesaid, shall be one distinct county and called and known by the name of Bedford; and all the other part of the said County of Lunenburg, shall be one other distinct county and retain the name of Lunenburg.

Later, additional territory was added to Bedford County from Albemarle and Lunenburg Counties.

10. CAMPBELL COUNTY,14 NOVEMBER, 1781

IN 1782 Campbell County was formed from Bedford; its boundaries are described as follows:

The County of Bedford shall be divided into two distinct counties by a line to begin at the mouth of Judy's creek on James river, thence to Thompson's mill on Buffalo creek, thence to the mouth of Back creek on Goose creek thence the same course continued to Staunton river, and that part of said county lying east of said line, shall be called and known by the name of Campbell.

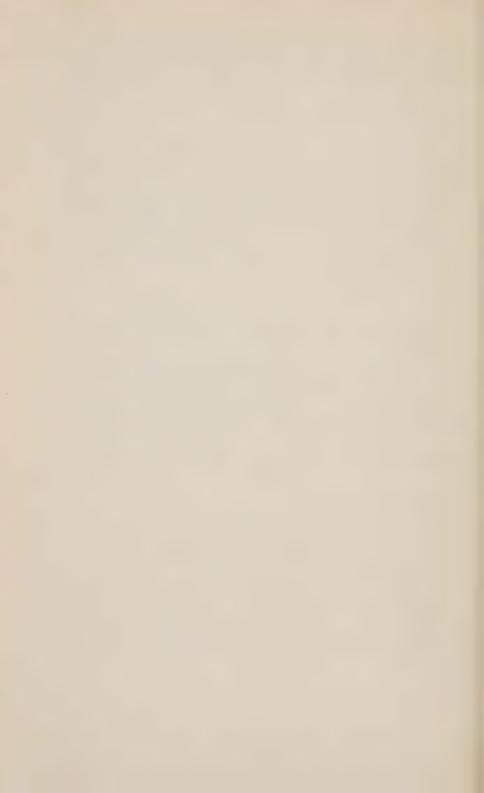
11. FRANKLIN COUNTY, 15 OCTOBER, 1785

In 1786 Franklin County was formed from Bedford and Henry. Its bounds are described as follows:

That part of the county of Bedford lying south of Staunton river together with so much of the county of Henry lying north of a line to be run from the head of Shooting creek to the west end of Turkeycock mountain, thence along the top of the mountain to intersect the dividing line between the counties of Henry and Pittsylvania, thence along that line to the mouth of Blackwater river, shall from and after the first day of January next, form a distinct County and be called and known by the name of Franklin.

NOTES

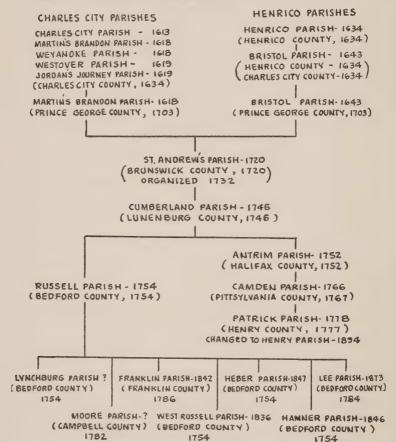
- ¹ 1 Hening, 224.
- ² 3 Hening, 223.
- ³ 4 Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, 272.
- ⁴ Hiden, How Justice Grew, 21.
- 5 Ibid., 22.
- ⁶ 4 Council of Colonial Virginia, Executive Journal, 56.
- 7 Ibid., 216.
- 8 5 Hening, 383.
- 9 6 Ibid., 252.
- 10 8 Ibid., 205.
- 11 9 Ibid., 241.
- 12 13 Ibid., 160.
- ¹³ 6 *Ibid.*, 381.
- 14 10 Ibid., 447.
- 15 12 Ibid., 70.



Charles City Parishes
and the Parishes in the
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
Descended Therefrom

CHARLES CITY PARISHES

AND THE PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA DESCENDED THEREFROM.



CHARLES CITY PARISHES AND THE PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA DESCENDED THEREFROM

CHARLES CITY PARISHES

CHARLES CITY PARISH, 1613
MARTIN'S BRANDON PARISH, 1618
WEYANOKE PARISH, 1618
WESTOVER PARISH, 1619
JORDAN'S JOURNEY PARISH, 1619
(Charles City County, 1634)

CHARLES CITY was one of the four great corporations set up by Governor Argall. It was described as extending on both sides of the James River, on the south side from Upper Chippokes Creek to the Appomattox River, and on the north side from Sandy Point to Turkey Island Creek.¹ On account of its proximity to Jamestown, some of the earliest settlements, or plantations, were located within its bounds. These plantations were referred to as plantation parishes, although they were not at that early date created by statute or ecclesiastical authority.

Among the first of these plantation parishes was Charles City, which was established about 1613 as a place of "retreat against forraigne enemy" on the south side of the Appomattox, several miles above its mouth, and gave its name first to the corporation, then to the county.²

The first settlers brought with them from the mother country the body of English custom and tradition as well as the civil and ecclesiastical law. In England the Parish bounds are fixed not by statute law nor by character, but by tradition, and preserved by the annual processionings. This was usually done, in ancient times, at Rogation season, when the fields were also blessed. The first parishes in Virginia, therefore, came into being with the first settlements and were simply plantations, Corporations or Hundreds, as the more or less distinct settlements were called. The word *parish* is first used in the Statutes only in this sense, as designating a community or neighborhood. (I Hening 123). After 1632, however, the word seems to be used of a minister and the precincts wherein parochial authority exercised jurisdiction.³

Martin's Brandon plantation was originally granted in 1618 to Captain John Martin, who became a large land owner in the colony. The plantation was located on the south side of the James River. The plantation parish took its name from the grant.⁴

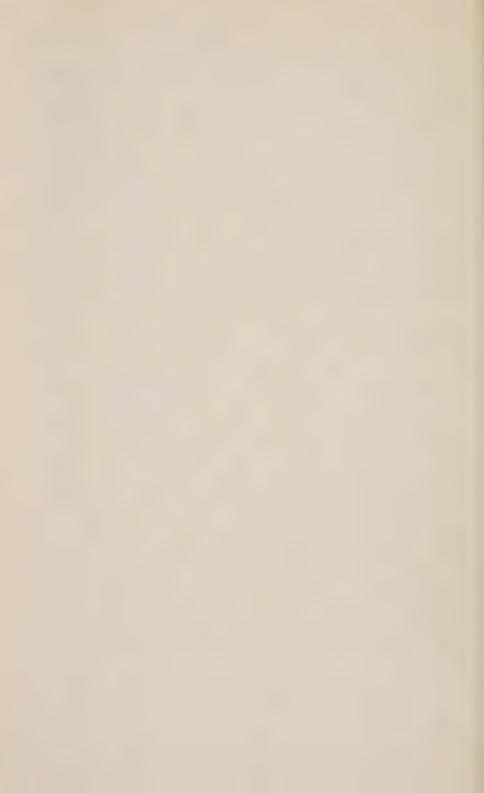
Weyanoke plantation parish crossed the James River and extended from Westover plantation parish east to David Jones's Creek (now Kennon's Creek) on the north side of the river, and to Chippokes Creek on the south side.⁵

West and Shirley Hundreds developed into Westover groupplantation parish, which lay on both sides of James River and extended from the Henrico County line to Old Man's River (now Gunn's Run) on the north side of the river and to Flowerdew Hundred on the south side of the river.⁶

Jordan's plantation parish bounds in its early days were not found, except that it was described later as extending eastward from Cawson's Creek to Westover Parish, and later (1687) it was described as beginning upon Bristol Parish and so extending downward to Buckar's (Bickers) Creek.⁷

Each of these plantation parishes later attained the status of a parish recognized by the General Assembly.

In 1634 the country was divided into eight shires "which are to be governed as the shires in England." Charles City was one of the eight shires, and it retained its original area as allocated when it became one of the four original corporations.⁸



As the population increased, some parishes gained in number of tithables, while others decreased in number. The General Assembly recognized these conditions, and from time to time new parishes were created and likewise the less populated parishes were merged into adjoining parishes; in some instances parishes were dissolved entirely.

In 1655 Jordan's Parish was cut off from Westover Parish.⁹ On April 25, 1688, "Governor unites Westover and Jordan Parishes by consent of the parishioners." ¹⁰ In 1720 the General Assembly passed an Act as follows:

. . . From and after the first day of January next (1721) those parts of said parishes of Westopher and Weyanoke which lye on the south side of James River be and stand divided from the said parishes on the north side thereof. And that thereafter the said parishes of Westopher and Weyanoke on the south side be united to the parish of Martin's Brandon in the county of Prince George which shall be called Martin's Brandon.¹¹

Gradually the parishes which were originally group-plantation parishes along the south side of the James River in Charles City County were united with Martin's Brandon Parish. This parish was independently established in 1655.

BRISTOL PARISH 1643 MARTIN'S BRANDON PARISH 1618

(Prince George County 1703)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, by an Act passed August 25, 1702, effective April 23, 1703, ordered that the "county of Charles City be divided into two distinct counties so that the James River divide the same and That that part of the said county which is and lyes on the North side of the said James River shall forever thereafter be called and knowne by the name of Charles Citty County. And that part of the said county which is and lyes on the south side of the said river shall remain and forever thereafter be called and knowne by the name of Prince George." ¹²

Prior to the formation of Prince George County, Bristol Parish, in Charles City County, had been formed in 1643¹³ from Henrico Parish, which included both sides of James River.

Be it also enacted and confirmed for the convenience of the inhabitants on both sides of the Appomattock River, being far remote from the parish church of the said plantation upon Appomattock be bounded into a parish by themselves, as followeth, to begin at Cawson's field within the mouth of the Appomattock River, on the eastward side, and at Powell's Creek on the westward side of the river; and so to extend up the river to the falls on both sides and the said parish to be called by the name of Bristol.

From that description, it will be seen that Bristol parish included all of Prince George County except that portion along the James River known as Martin's Brandon Parish. The southern boundary of Martin's Brandon was not identified. As stated hereinbefore, the line between these two parishes was not known at that time. Bristol parish covered the whole valley of the Appomattox River. It was one of the earliest parishes, dating from the first settlements of the Appomattox River. It was partly in Henrico and partly in Charles City County. The part in Henrico County, south of the James River, became Dale Parish in 1735.¹⁴

Martin's Brandon Parish seems to have had the status of a group-plantation parish from its first settlement, since a land patent for this historic tract, dated 1611, reserves "200 acres of said land formerly given as a glebe to the Parish of Martin Brandon: under order of court to Captain John Martin of 1643.¹⁵

The establishment of Martin's Brandon as a separate parish was brought about by a Charles City County Court order of 4th June 1655, authorizing, "according to a former order of Assembly, that Martin's Brandon neck, vidzt, from Ward's Creek to Chepokes Creeke and the Inhabitants therein shall from henceforth be an absolute distinct parish of themselves, with all Immunities and privileges of a parish, without relacon to Weynoke parish or any other." ¹⁶

As shown in the preceding pages, the parishes on the north side of the James River in Charles City County became finally combined into Westover Parish, so, on the south side there were finally two parishes in Charles City County under its new name of Prince George County. These two parishes were (1) the parish of Martin's Brandon, into which had been gathered all the earlier parishes which had existed east of the Appomattox River Valley to the eastern boundary of Charles City, and later Prince George; (2) Bristol Parish, formed in 1643, covering the whole Valley of the Appomattox River, and was partly in Henrico County and partly in Prince George County.¹⁷

The territory of Prince George County then extended indefinitely downward to the south and west, as far as settlement extended. It went westward up the Valley of the Appomattox; Henrico Parish covered the southern valley of the James, and died out upon reaching the watershed ridge which divided the drainage into the Appomattox from the drainage into the James.

The eastern boundary of Prince George County was the western boundary of Surry County. It was a line running almost due southwest from the James River as far as settlement extended. The eastern boundary between Bristol Parish and Martin's Brandon Parish was a more or less straight line running due south, until it reached the southeastern line dividing Prince George from Surry (later, Sussex). Martin's Brandon Parish was therefore (as was finally Prince George County), a triangular parish with the southern point based on the Surry line.

The first county which was cut off from Prince George County was Brunswick County, formed under an Act adopted in 1720. It covered all the territory of Virginia south of the Appomattox valley and west of the Surry County line. This was an enormous extent of territory, reaching westward along the North Carolina line as far as the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains. All of this territory, excepting a triangular piece of Surry County and a very much smaller piece taken from the western tip of Isle of Wight County, was in Bristol Parish.

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH 1720

(Brunswick County 1720) ESTABLISHED 1732

IN THE ACT creating Brunswick County, it is stated that the County of Brunswick shall form one parish to be called St. Andrew. 18 Brunswick County was formed from the southern part of Prince George County lying between the Nottaway River and the line between Virginia and North Carolina. This parish was formed from Bristol Parish and probably a small part of Martin's Brandon.

On account of the small number of tithables in the county it was not organized until May, 1732, when parts of Counties of Surry and Isle of Wight and part of the parishes of Lawne's Creek, Southwark and Warwicksqueak became a part of the parish of St. Andrew. In April, 1730, the Executive Council ordered:¹⁹

It is ordered that the line of said County of Brunswick do extend to the Appomattox River and no further and from thence the said river to be the boundary line between the two said Counties. [Brunswick and Goochland]

In Goodwin's "Parish Lines, Diocese of Southern Virginia," page 68, the antecedents of St. Andrew's Parish are given as Bristol Parish and Martin's Brandon Parish.

But while the Act creating the new county of Brunswick was adopted by the General Assembly in 1720, it could not be put into effect until a definite dividing line between the Colonies of Virginia and North Carolina was decided upon and definitely marked. It was not until 1728 that commissioners from both colonies were officially secured to run and to mark the boundary line. And then it was not until a year or two later that the legislatures of both Virginia and North Carolina formally accepted the line as run by their commissioners. So it was not until 1732 that Brunswick County and its new Parish, Saint Andrew's Parish, were actually organized. 194

Inasmuch as the County was formed from Prince George, and St. Andrews Parish was formed largely from Bristol Parish, it will be wise to trace the two lines of counties and parishes that developed from this Prince George County and Bristol Parish. One was the line of counties and parishes that was formed in the Valley of the Appomattox River; the other was the line of counties and parishes that extended along the Virginia-Carolina boundary toward the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Appomattox Valley line of counties and parishes died out in Appomattox County with the head-springs of the River, while the southern boundary line of parishes reached up west of Appomattox River to include all the territory south of the James River, up to the top of the Blue Ridge.

In the Appomattox Valley, Amelia was formed from Prince George County in 1735, a portion of St. Andrews was in the new county and Bristol Parish covered the remaining portion. Raleigh Parish was created covering its territory. Then Prince Edward County was formed from Amelia County in 1754, with St. Patrick's Parish covering its territory. Then Bedford County and Russell Parish were formed from the northern boundary line of the Appomattox Valley and reached to the James River, thereby ending the Appomattox Valley line.

The second line of counties and parishes covered the territory south of the Appomattox River Valley and to the North Carolina line. Lunenburg County and Cumberland Parish were formed from Brunswick County in 1746,²³ covering all the territory west of the division line set forth in the Act. From Lunenburg went two lines of counties and parishes. One line extended directly along the North Carolina line. Halifax County and Antrim Parish were formed in 1752;²⁴ Pittsylvania County and Camden Parish were formed from Halifax County in 1767;²⁵ Henry County was formed from Pittsylvania County in 1777²⁶ and its territory was formed into Patrick Parish in 1779.²⁷ Patrick County was formed from the western end of Henry County in 1791,²⁸ but it remained still in Patrick Parish. Patrick County and Patrick Parish extended to the top of the Blue Ridge Moun-

tains. The name "Patrick Parish" in Henry County was changed to "Henry Parish" in 1894.

The other line of counties and parishes extended from Lunenburg through the territory immediately south of the Appomattox River Valley, and onward until it extended to the James River. Bedford County and Russell Parish were formed from Lunenburg in 1754,²⁹ and reached up to the James River, then extending up to the top of the mountains. Campbell County was formed from its eastern end in 1782,³⁰ and Franklin County formed in part from its western end in 1786;³¹ while Lunenburg itself was divided into three counties: Charlotte, Mecklenburg, and the remainder of the original Lunenburg, in 1765. St. James Parish was taken from Raleigh Parish to cover Mecklenburg County, and Cornwall Parish, already formed in 1757 from Raleigh Parish, covered all of Charlotte County.

As already shown, these counties and parishes covered all the territory of the southern part of the Colony up to the top of the Mountain; therefore, all of the parishes in the present Diocese of Southwestern Virginia existing to the east of the top of the Blue Mountains, and south of the James River, descend directly from Brunswick County and St. Andrew's Parish.

As Brunswick County was formed, except for its eastern boundary, from Prince George County and from Bristol Parish, these Southwestern Virginia parishes may trace their ancestry to the original Mother Parish of Bristol, formed in Charles City County in 1643. And so they descend from Charles City County, which was an "Original Shire" in 1634; and back of that to the original "Corporation of Charles City" located in 1613,³¹ which was one of the four original "Cities," or Corporations, founded directly by the London Company in Virginia.

CUMBERLAND PARISH 1746

(Lunenburg County 1746)

THE COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK was divided in 1745 and the County of Lunenburg was formed.³² By the same Act, St. Andrew's Parish was divided and Cumberland Parish was created. The new parish covered the entire county.

ANTRIM PARISH 1752 (Halifax County 1752)

THE COUNTY OF LUNENBURG was divided in 1752 and the County of Halifax was formed.³³ The Parish of Cumberland was divided and Antrim Parish was created. The new parish covered the entire county.

CAMDEN PARISH 1766

(Pittsylvania County 1767)

THE COUNTY OF HALIFAX was divided in 1766 and the County of Pittsylvania was formed in 1767.³⁴ By the same Act the parish of Antrim was divided and Camden Parish was created. The new parish covered the entire county.

PATRICK PARISH 1778

(Henry County 1777)

THE COUNTY OF PITTSYLVANIA was divided in 1776 and the County of Henry was formed.³⁵ The parish of Camden was divided in 1778 and Patrick Parish was created.³⁶ The new parish covered the entire county. By resolution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia³⁷ the name of Patrick Parish in Henry County was changed to Henry Parish in 1894.

In 1752 Halifax County was formed from Lunenburg County, and later, in 1754, Bedford County was also formed from Lunenburg County. Cumberland Parish in Lunenburg County was divided when Halifax and Bedford Counties were formed.

RUSSELL PARISH 1754

(Bedford County 1754)

WHEN BEDFORD COUNTY was formed from Lunenburg County in 1753 the Act dividing the county contained a provision for the division of Cumberland Parish.³⁸

That from and after the tenth of May, which shall be 1756, the said parish of Cumberland shall be divided into two distinct parishes, and all that part of said parish that shall be in the County of Bedford shall be one distinct parish and thereafter called and known by the name of Russel.

MOORE PARISH c. 1829

(Campbell County 1782)

WHEN CAMPBELL COUNTY was created from Bedford County in 1782³⁹ the Act did not provide for the creation of a new parish. Hence Russell Parish in Bedford County remained as a parish in Campbell County. As early as the Conventions of 1829 and 1830⁴⁰ however, Moore Parish filed a parochial report and had representation in the Convention. No Convention record for the establishment of Moore Parish has been found. The boundaries of the parish are unknown.

LYNCHBURG PARISH c. 1825

(City of Lynchburg)

No Convention record has been found establishing this parish. As early as the Convention of 1825 of the Diocese of Virginia,⁴¹ reference is made to Lynchburg Parish and it is stated that the minister began his work in September, 1824. The Convention of 1826 met in Lynchburg. The Convention was the first service held in the new church. No name is given for the church. The boundaries of the parish are not known.

FRANKLIN PARISH 1842

(Franklin County 1786)

WHEN FRANKLIN COUNTY was formed from Bedford County in 1786,⁴² no parish was created. By resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia in 1842,⁴³ Franklin Parish was created. No metes and bounds of the parish are given.

WEST RUSSELL PARISH 1836

(Bedford County 1754)

This parish was created by a resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia⁴⁴ from Russell Parish. On page 32 of the same Journal in parochial reports it is stated that the parish was formed out of the western part of Bedford County. No metes and bounds were given.

HAMNER PARISH 1846

(Bedford County 1754)

This parish was created out of Russell Parish by a resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.⁴⁵ No metes and bounds were given, nor was a name for the new parish. In the Journal of 1847, Hamner Parish appears for the first time.

HEBER PARISH 1847

(Bedford County 1754)

This parish was created out of Russell Parish by resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.⁴⁶ In the Journal of 1872, the metes and bounds of Heber Parish were fixed by the Convention as follows:⁴⁷

Beginning at a point on Big Otter River where the line between the Counties of Campbell & Bedford crosses said river; thence up the said river to Kelso's Mills; thence with the turnpike road to Botetourt County line; thence around with the line of Bedford County to the Staunton River; thence down Staunton River to the Campbell County line, and

thence with the last named line to the Beginning. So that all that part of Bedford County lying south and west of the line first named and of Campbell County line, shall be embraced in and be subject to the jurisdiction of Heber Parish.

LEE PARISH 1873

(Bedford County 1754)

This parish was created out of Heber Parish by a resolution of the Diocese of Virginia.⁴⁸ Its metes and bounds are as follows:

Beginning at Kelso Mills; thence a straight line to James W. Williams; thence with the road from James W. Williams to Goose Creek at Henry Taylor's old place; thence down Goose Creek to Dickenson Mill road, leading from Liberty to Emmaus; thence along the last named road to Emmaus, and from Emmaus along the Dickenson Mill road to where the last named road intersects the Rocky Mount turnpike road; thence with said turnpike to Staunton river; thence with Staunton river to the county line between Roanoke and Bedford Counties; thence with said county line between Bedford, Roanoke & Botetourt to the intersection of said county line with road from Kelso's Mills; and thence with said road to Kelso's Mills the beginning.

NOTES

- ¹ Tyler, The Cradle of the Republic, 198.
- ² Tyler, Narratives of Early Virginia, 306.
- ³ Goodwin, Parish Lines, Diocese of Virginia, 2.
- ⁴ Mason, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, 50.
- ⁵ Ibid., 50; 1 Hening, 251.
- ⁶ Mason, Colonial Churches in Tidewater Virginia, 50.
- 7 Ibid., 77.
- 8 Mason, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, 49.
- 9 Ibid., 51.
- ¹⁰ Council of Colonial Virginia, 1 Executive Journals, 512.
- ¹¹ 18 W. & M. Quar. (2) 114; 4 Hening 95, title only.
- ¹² Robinson, Virginia Counties 199; 3 Hening 223, title only.
- ¹³ 1 Hening, 251.
- ¹⁴ 4 Hening, 443.
- ¹⁵ 20 W. & M. Quar. (1), 219.
- ¹⁶ Charles City County Records 1655-65, 3.
- ¹⁷ 1 Hening, 251.
- 18 4 Ibid., 78.

- ¹⁹ Council of Colonial Virginia, 4 Executive Journals, 216.
- 19A Robinson, Virginia Counties (Note 11a), 76.
- ²⁰ 4 Hening, 467.
- ²¹ 6 *Ibid.*, 379.
- ²² 6 Ibid., 381.
- 23 5 Ibid., 383.
- ²⁴ 6 Ibid., 252.
- 25 8 Ibid., 205.
- 26 9 Ibid., 241.
- 27 9 Ibid., 567.
- ²⁸ 13 *Ibid.*, 160.
- ²⁹ 6 *Ibid.*, 381.
- 30 10 Ibid., 447.
- 31 12 Ibid., 70.
- 31A Robinson, Virginia Counties, 31.
- 32 5 Hening, 383.
- 33 6 Ibid., 252.
- 34 8 Ibid., 205.
- 35 9 Ibid., 241.
- 36 9 Ibid., 567.
- ³⁷ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1894, 43.
- 38 6 Hening, 381.
- 39 10 Ibid., 447.
- 40 Hawks, History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia, 224, 237.
- 41 Ibid., 183, 186.
- ⁴² 12 Hening, 70.
- 43 Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1842, 14.
- 44 Ibid., 1836, 13.
- 45 Ibid., 1846, 62.
- 46 Ibid., 1847, 32.
- 47 Ibid., 1872, 56.
- 48 Ibid., 1873, 72.



Descent of the Counties
in the
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
from
Charles River later York County
One of the Original Shires



DESCENT OF THE COUNTIES

in the

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA from

CHARLES RIVER LATER YORK COUNTY One of the Original Shires

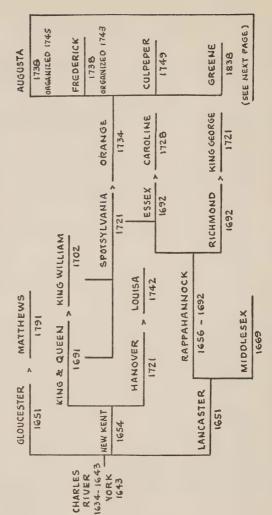
1. CHARLES RIVER COUNTY, 1634; YORK COUNTY, 1643

In 1634 The Country was divided into eight shires, to be governed as the shires in England. Charles River was named one of the original shires.¹ Charles River County, or shire, was described as lying to the north of Warwick County and adjoining Elizabeth City County on the east. Its north and west boundaries were indefinite. In 1643 the name of Charles River County was changed to York County.²

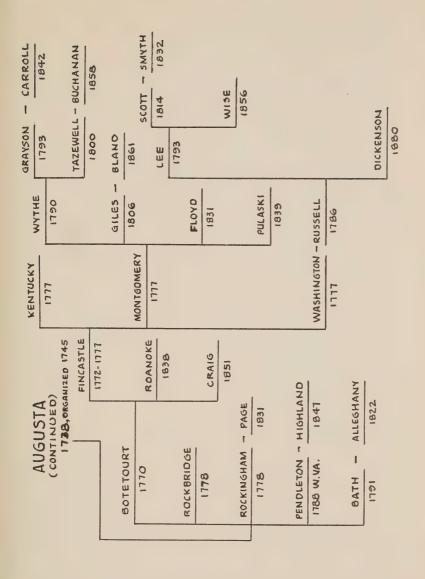
The formation of Northumberland County in 1645 and reaffirmed in 1648 limited the northerly extension of York County. The formation of Lancaster and Gloucester Counties in 1651 further curtailed the area of York County north of the York River.

In 1916 the Virginia State Library published as one of its quarterly bulletins "Virginia Counties: Those Resulting from Virginia Legislation," by Morgan Poitiaux Robinson, Archivist. This study was soon recognized as an exhaustive and thorough study of this interesting subject. The charts prepared by Mr.

DESCENT OF COUNTIES DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA CHARLES RIVER-YORK COUNTY



YORK COUNTY; AREA NORTH OF THE RIVER WAS TAKEN FROM NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY. NOTE: LANCASTER COUNTY, SOUTH OF THE RAPPAHAUNOCK RIVER, WAS TAKEN FROM



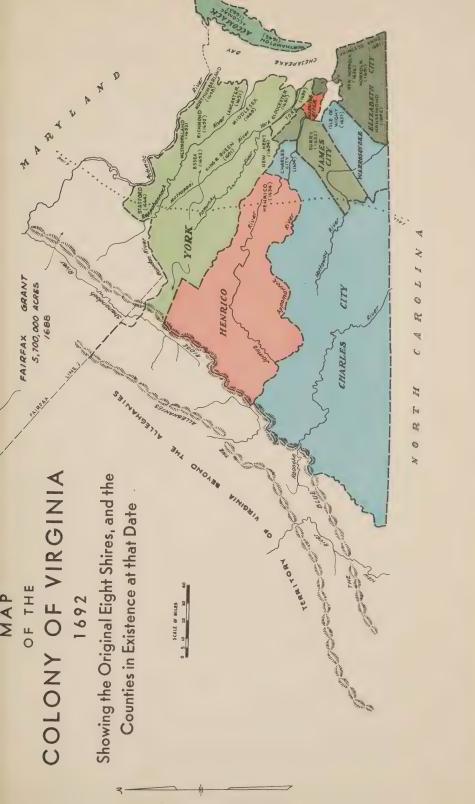
Robinson have often been followed by other students of the genealogy of Virginia Counties. A more recent study of this subject was made by Martha W. Hiden for The Virginia 350th Anniversary Celebration Corporation, entitled "How Justice Grew—Virginia Counties—An Abstract of Their Formation." Mrs. Hiden's charts follow the same general outline as shown in Mr. Robinson's charts.

In making this study of the parishes of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia the question has arisen, "Do the parishes of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia look to the York parishes or the Northumberland parishes as their ancestor?" The study of the ancestry of parishes in the Virginia church is closely tied in with the study of the formation of our counties. Stated broadly, the parishes were coterminous with the counties. When a new county was created, it was the customary practice to create a new parish.

Robinson's Chart 9 designates Northumberland as the parent county of the Southwest Virginia counties; out of Northumberland came Lancaster; out of Lancaster Old Rappahannock; out of Rappahannock came Essex and Richmond, and out of Essex came Spotsylvania; out of Spotsylvania came Orange; out of Orange came Augusta, and from Augusta came the various counties of Southwestern Virginia.³

But in analyzing the chart, we see that Lancaster was the first county taken from Northumberland; it took the southern part, or the Rappahannock watershed, of Northumberland County along the Rappahannock River, and crossed the river and took part of York County down to the Piankatank River in said county. Robinson states that Lancaster was formed from Northumberland and York Counties.⁴ This is a tacit admission that Northumberland did not extend south of the Rappahannock River.

On the south side of the Rappahannock River, prior to the formation of Lancaster County or about the same time, 1651, that part of York County south of the Piankatank River became





Gloucester County, and that north and northwest of it became Lancaster County on the south side of the river.⁵

Lancaster County on the south side of the river first gave up its western portion when Rappahannock County was formed from it. Later, in 1669, when the remaining portion of Lancaster was taken to form Middlesex, Lancaster County south of the river passed out of existence.⁶

Northumberland was first created in 1645; the act of reaffirmance in 1648 stated that it was that neck of land between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers known as Chickacoan. This clearly limits the county north of the Rappahannock.⁷ The ancient maps in the Virginia State Library all show Northumberland on the north side of the Rappahannock River.

When Old Rappahannock County was formed in 1656 from Lancaster County, it included parts of that county on both sides of the river. When Old Rappahannock County was divided in 1692 into Essex and Richmond Counties, the river was the dividing line between the two new counties. The Act contained a very significant statement, "That the records belonging to the County of Rappahannock before this division be kept in Essex County, that belong wholly to their magesties and the other to the proprietors of the Northern Neck." Thereafter the chain of title to the counties in Southwest Virginia does not include any counties north of the Rappahannock River.

In 1721 Spotsylvania County was formed from the heads of three counties, Essex, King and Queen, and King William Counties, all lying south of the Rappahannock River. 10 From Spotsylvania came Orange and from Orange came Augusta, from which county came the counties composing Southwest Virginia today. The only connection these counties have with Northumberland County is through Lancaster County and through that portion of Lancaster County which they claim came from York County, south of the Rappahannock River.

For the reasons above stated, the conclusion is reached that the counties and parishes included in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia west of the Blue Ridge Mountains claim York County and the York Parishes as their ancestor, and not Northumberland County and its parishes.

York County was the ancestor of all of the Middle Virginia group of counties lying between the Rappahannock River on the north and the Chickahominy River on the south. These counties are divided into three genealogical groups. The first group descend from Lancaster County, lying between the Rappahannock River and the Dragon Swamp and Pianketank River. The second group descend from New Kent, lying along the Chickahominy, York, Pamunkey and Mattapony Rivers. The third group, Gloucester and Mathews, stand by themselves and do not enter into our chain of title.

For convenience, we will begin numerically with York County as No. 1. Those descending from the first group and descended from Lancaster County will carry the suffix A, such as Lancaster County 2A. Those from the second group descending from New Kent County will carry the suffix B, such as New Kent 2B.

These two branches joined again when Spotsylvania County was created from the western portion of King & Queen, King William, and Essex Counties.

We will now turn to the chain of title of the counties lying along the southern side of the Rappahannock River, beginning with Lancaster County, which lay on both sides of the river. The portion lying on the south side was taken from York County in 1651.

2A. LANCASTER COUNTY, 11 1651

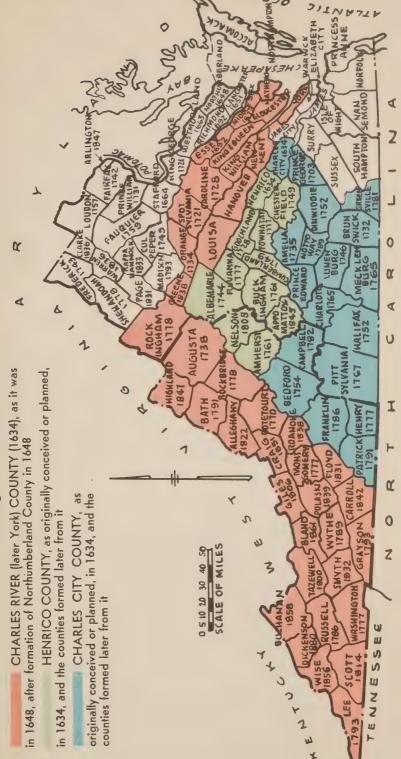
LANCASTER COUNTY, being on both sides of the Rappahannock River, descended from Northumberland and York Counties.

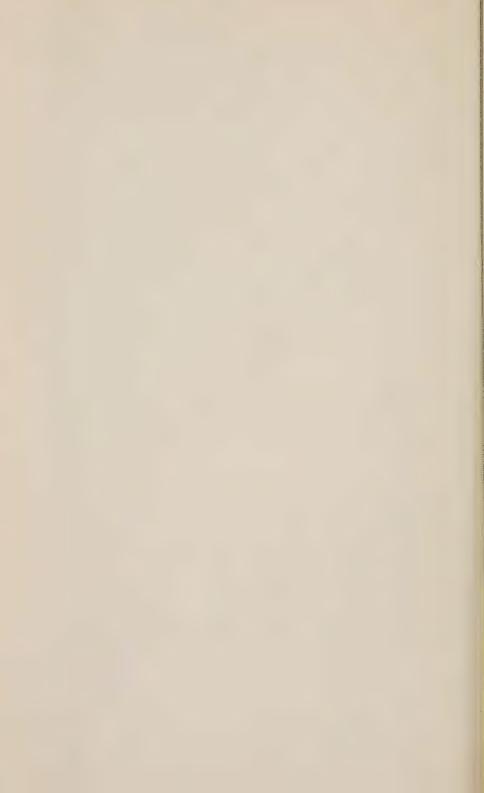
The books in the Land Office show that the land in Lancaster County was previously in Northumberland and York. The first county court was held January 1, 1652. It was probably formed at an assembly held in 1651, whose records are not preserved.¹²

The following is an interesting explanation of the lack of records concerning the formation of Gloucester and Lancaster Counties:

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA







In explanation of our ignorance in regard to the exact date of the establishment of Gloucester County, it may be well to call attention to the disturbed state of affairs in Virginia between January 30, 1649, when King Charles I was beheaded, and March 12, 1652, when Virginia was surrendered to the Commonwealth of England. During these three years, but one Grand Assembly was held, on October 10, 1649, and at this Assembly only four Acts were passed, none of which makes any reference to Gloucester County. When the next Grand Assembly met, April 26, 1652, Gloucester County was represented by two burgesses, Mr. Hugh Guinne and Mr. Fra. Willis. 13

Likewise the same may be said of Lancaster County, which was formed in 1651. No record of the formation of the county has been found. The names of the Burgesses for the several plantations at a meeting of the Grand Assembly held November 25, 1652 representing Lancaster were Captain Henry Fleet and Mr. Wm. Underwood.¹⁴

3A. OLD RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY,¹⁵ DECEMBER, 1656

It is ordered that according to an order of court dividing the said countie at present into parishes, be for the future the bounds of the two counties. The upper part of Mr. Bennett's land known by the name of Naemhock on the south side of the eastmost branch of Moratticock Creek on the north side of the river be the lower most bounds of the upper county; the lower county to retain the name of Lancaster and the upper county to be named Rappahannock county and notwithstanding this division both counties to be liable to the Burgesses charge of the present assembly.

4A. ESSEX COUNTY,16 APRIL, 1692

That the aforesaid county of Rappahannock be divided into two distinct counties, so that Rappahannock river divide the same, and that that part which is now on the north side thereof be called and known by the name of Richmond county and that that part which is now on the south side thereof be called and known by the name of Essex county. That the records belonging to the county of Rappahannock before this division be kept in Essex county, that belonging wholly to their magesties and the other to the proprietors of the Northern Neck.

We will now follow the chain of title of the Middle Virginia counties descended from New Kent County lying along the Chickahominy, York, Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers.

2B. NEW KENT COUNTY,17 NOVEMBER, 1654

By an Act of the Assembly,

... it is ordered that the upper part of York County shall be a distinct county called New Kent, from the west side of Scimino Creek to the heads of Pomunkey and Mattaponie River, and down to the head of the west side of the Poropotanke Creek.

3B. KING AND QUEEN COUNTY,18 APRIL, 1691

By an Act for dividing New Kent County, it was provided:

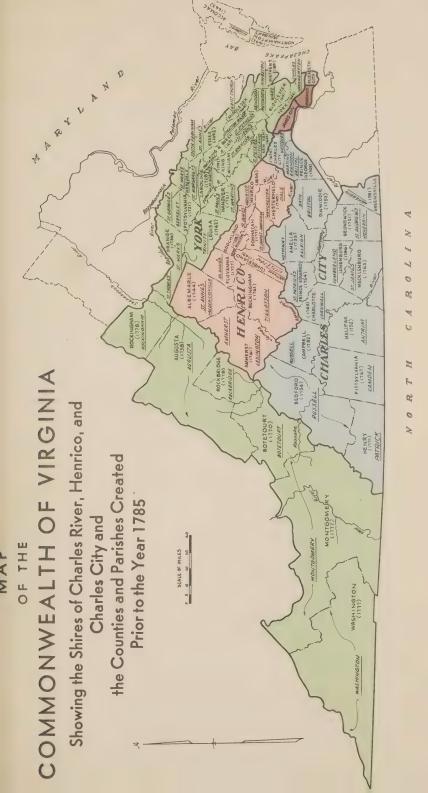
That the aforesaid county of New Kent be divided into two distinct counties, so that the Pomunkey River divide the same, and so down York River to the extent of the county, and that part which is now on the south side of York and Pomunkey River be called New Kent, and that the north side with Pomunkey Neck be called and known by the name of King and Queen County.

4B. KING WILLIAM COUNTY, 19 AUGUST, 1702

By an Act for dividing King and Queen County, it was provided:

That after the 11th day of April, 1702, the said County of King and Queen be divided into two distinct counties so that Mattaponey River divide the same and that that part of said county which is and lies on the north side of said Mattaponey River and York River remain and shall be forever thereafter called and known by the name of King and Queen County, and that part of said county which is and lies on the south side of said river within Pomunkey Neck shall be called and known by the name of King William County.

The western frontier in Middle Virginia was now represented by three counties: Essex, King and Queen, and King William. From the heads of these three counties Spotsylvania County was created in 1721.





5. SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, 20 NOVEMBER, 1720

An Act for the erecting of the counties of Spotsylvania and Brunswick:

Enacted, Spotsylvania County bounds upon Snow Creek up to the mill, thence by a line southwest to the river North Anna, thence up said river as far as convenient, and thence by a line to the run over the high mountains to the river on the northwest side thereof, so as to include the northern passage thro' the said mountains, thence down the said river until it comes against the head of Rappahanock, thence by a line to the head of Rappahanock river, and down that river to the mouth of Snow Creek; which tract of land from the first of May 1721, shall become a county, by the name of Spotsylvania County.

Then a description is given of Brunswick County.

6. DIVISION OF ST. GEORGE PARISH,²¹ MAY, 1730

An Act dividing the Parish of St. George, in the County of Spotsylvania:

That from and after the first day of January 1731, the said parish of St. George, be divided into two distinct parishes: From the mouth of the Rappidan, to the mouth of the Wilderness run, thence up said run to the bridge, and thence southwest to the Pamunky river: And that all that part of the said parish which lies below the said bounds shall forever thereafter remain, be called and known by the name of St. George parish; And that all that other part of the said parish which lies above the said bounds, shall thereafter be called and known by the name of St. Mark.

7. ORANGE COUNTY,²² AUGUST, 1734

An Act for dividing Spotsylvania County:

That from and immediately after the first day of January, now next ensuing, the said county of Spotsylvania be divided, by the dividing line, between the parish of St. George and the parish of St. Mark, and that that part of the county which is now the parish of St. George remain and be called & known by the name of Spotsylvania county, and all that territory of land adjoining to, and above the said line bounden southerly by the line of Hanover county, northerly by the grant of lord Fairfax, and westerly by the utmost limits of Virginia, be henceforth erected into one distinct county and be called and known by the name of the county of Orange.

8. AUGUSTA COUNTY, 23 NOVEMBER, 1738

An Act, for erecting two new counties and parishes:

That all that territory and tract of land, at present deemed to be part of Orange, lying on the north west side of the top of the said mountains, extending from thence northerly, westerly, and southerly, beyond the said mountains, to the utmost limits of Virginia, be separated from the rest of the said County, and erected into two distinct counties and parishes; to be divided by a line to be run from the head spring of Hedgman river, to the head spring of the river Potowmack; and that all that part of said territory, lying to the north east of said line, beyond the top of the said Blue Ridge, shall be one distinct county, and parish, to be called by the name of the County of Frederick and parish of Frederick: And that the rest of the said territory, lying on the other side of the said line, beyond the top of the Blue Ridge, shall be one distinct county, and parish; to be called by the name of county of Augusta, & parish of Augusta.

9. BOTETOURT COUNTY,24 NOVEMBER, 1769

An Act for dividing the County and Parish of Augusta:

That from and after the thirty first day of January next ensuing, the said county and parish of Augusta be divided into two counties and parishes, by a line beginning at the Blue Ridge, running north 55° West, to the confluence of Mary's creek, on the South river, with the North branch of James river, thence up the same to the mouth of Carr's creek, thence up said creek to the mountain, thence north 55° west, as far as the courts of the two counties shall extend it; and that all that part of the said county & parish, which lies on the south side of said line, shall be one distinct county and parish and called and known by the name of Botetourt, and that all the other part thereof which is on the north side of the said line, shall be one other distinct county & parish and retain the name of Augusta.

10. FINCASTLE COUNTY, 25 FEBRUARY, 1772

An Act for dividing the County of Botetourt into two distinct counties:

That from and after the first day of December next, the said county of Botetourt shall be divided into two distinct counties, that is to say, all that part of the said county within a line, to run up the east side of New

river to the mouth of Culberson's creek, thence a direct line to the Catawba road where it crosses the dividing ridge, between the north fork of Roanoke and the waters of New river, thence with the top of the ridge to the bend where it turns eastwardly, thence a south course crossing Little River to the top of the Blue Ridge mountains, shall be established as one distinct county & called & known by the name of Fincastle & all that other part thereof which lies to the east & north of the said line shall be one other county & retain the name of Botetourt.

11. MONTGOMERY, WASHINGTON AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES,²⁶ OCTOBER, 1776

An Act for dividing the County of Fincastle into three distinct counties and the parish of Botetourt into four distinct parishes: (For map showing this division see "Kegley's Virginia Frontier," page 380)

That from and after the last day of December next ensuing the said County of Fincastle shall be divided into three counties, that is to say, Montgomery, Washington and Kentucky.

And all that part of the said county of Fincastle included in the lines beginning at the Cumberland Mountain, where the line of Kentucky county intersects the North Carolina line, thence east along the said Carolina line to the top of Iron Mountain thence along the same easterly to the source of the South fork of the Holston river, thence northwardly along the highest part of the high lands, ridges and mountains, that divide the waters of the Tennessee from those of the Great Kanawha, to the utmost source of the Clinch River, thence westwardly along the top of the mountains that divide the waters of Clinch river from those of the Great Kanawha and Sandy Creek to the line of Kentucky County, thence along the same to the beginning, shall be one other distinct county and called and known by the name of Washington; and all the residue of the said county of Fincastle shall be one other distinct county and shall be called and known by the name of Montgomery. (Justices shall meet at Harodsburg, Black's fort (Abingdon) and Fort Chiswell)

That from and after the last day of December next the said parish shall be divided into four distinct parishes, that is to say: All that part of the said parish which lies in the County of Montgomery shall be one distinct parish and be called and known by the name of Montgomery, all that other part of the parish which lies in the said county of Washington shall be one other distinct parish and be called and known by the name of

Washington. All that other part of said parish which lies in the county of Kentucky shall be one other distinct parish and be called and known by the name of Kentucky; and all that other part of said parish which lies in the County of Botetourt shall be one other distinct parish and shall retain the name of Botetourt parish.

By this Act the County of Fincastle became extinct.

At this point in the chain of title of the counties the Revolutionary War interrupted the life in Virginia. The General Assembly, created in 1619, continued to function. Patrick Henry, Esq. was elected the first Governor of Virginia, under the Constitution, on the 29th day of June, 1776, the same day on which the Constitution was adopted. The General Assembly met on the 7th day of October, 1776, that being the first year of the Commonwealth, and began a revision of the statutes of Virginia and the enactment of laws to govern the new Commonwealth.

From 1619 until 1785 the counties and parishes in Virginia had been created by Acts of the General Assembly. On May 18, 1785 the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia had been created—thereafter the parishes were created by the Diocese of Virginia and the succeeding dioceses; however, the counties continued to be created by the General Assembly.

In 1786 there were within the boundary of the present Diocese of Southwestern Virginia the following counties, with dates of their creation:

Augusta1738	Franklin1786
Amherst1761	Henry1778
Bedford1754	Montgomery1777
Botetourt1770	Rockbridge1778
Campbell1782	Washington1777

With the exceptions of Campbell, Franklin, and Rockbridge, other new counties were carved out of each of the remaining counties.

From Augusta came the following three counties: Rockbridge in 1778, Bath in 1791, and Alleghany in 1822.

12. ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY,27 OCTOBER, 1777

IN 1778 Rockbridge was formed from parts of Botetourt and Augusta. It was bounded as follows:

By a line beginning in the top of the Blue Ridge near Steele's Mill and running thence north fifty-five degrees west passing the said mill and crossing the North mountain to the top and the mountain dividing the waters of the Calf Pasture from the waters of the Cow Pasture and thence along the said mountain crossing Panther's gap to the line that divides the counties of Augusta and Botetourt. The remainder of Botetourt shall be divided by a line to begin at Audley Paul's and running thence south fifty-five degrees east crossing James river, to the top of the Blue Ridge, thence along the same crossing James river, to the beginning of the aforesaid line dividing Augusta county; then beginning again at the said Audley Paul's, and running north fifty-five degrees west till the said course shall intersect a line to be run south forty-five degrees west from the place where the above line dividing Augusta terminated.

13. BATH COUNTY,28 OCTOBER, 1790

In 1791 Bath was formed from Augusta. Its bounds are described as follows:

All those parts of the counties of Augusta, Botetourt and Greenbrier within the following bounds, to wit: beginning at the west corner of Pendleton county; thence to the top of the ridge dividing the headwaters of the South branch from those of Jackson's river, thence a straight line to the lower end of John Redman's plantation on the Cowpasture river, thence to the top of the ridge that divides the waters of the Cow-pasture from those of the Calf-pasture thence along the same as far as the ridge that divides Hamilton's creek from Mill creek, thence to the Mill mountain, and with the same to the north corner of the line of Rockbridge county, thence along the said mountain crossing the line of Botetourt county to the ridge that divides the waters of Pad's creek from those of Simpson's creek, thence along the said ridge to the Cow-pasture river, thence crossing the said river a direct course and crossing Jackson's river at the mouth of Dunlap's creek, thence up the same as far as the narrows above the plantation of David Tate, Senr., so as to leave the inhabitants of the said creek in Botetourt county, thence a direct course to the top of the Allegany mountain where the road from the Warm Springs to Greenbrier court house crosses the said mountain, thence along the top of the said mountain opposite the headwaters of Anthony's creek, thence a direct course crossing Greenbrier river to the end of the

Droop mountain, thence up the same to the great Greenbrier mountain thence along the said mountain to the line of Randolph county thence with the same along the said mountain dividing the waters of Monomgalie and Cheat from those of Greenbrier river, and thence to its beginning shall form one distinct county.

14. ALLEGHANY COUNTY, 29 JANUARY 5, 1822

In 1822 Alleghany was formed from Augusta. Its bounds are described as follows:

Beginning at the top of the middle of Potts' mountain, where the road leading from Fincastle to the Sweet Springs crosses the same; thence with said road to the top of Peter's mountain; thence a straight line to the Greenbrier county line on the top of the Alleghany mountain so as to pass between the Sweet and Red springs; thence with the top of the Alleghany or Greenbrier line to a certain point so that a straight line drawn thence to include in the new county Captain Henry Massie's plantation in the Falling Spring Valley may also include Archibald Morriss's plantation on Jackson's river in said new county; thence a straight line from the said Massie's across the Cowpasture river immediately below William Griffin's on said river to the Rockbridge county line; thence with said line to a point in the Rockbridge and Botetourt line so that a line drawn from thence will pass at or near the junction of Jackson's and Cowpasture rivers to the nearest part of the Rich Patch mountain; and this line to be so run as to leave the house and yard of Captain John Jordan in the county of Botetourt; thence with the highest points of the said Rich Patch mountain next to Craig's creek so as to include the inhabitants of the Rich Patch in said new county, to a point at which it unites with Potts' mountain, thence with the top of the said mountain to the beginning.

From Botetourt came the following two counties: Roanoke in 1838 and Craig in 1851.

15. ROANOKE COUNTY, 30 MARCH 30, 1838

In 1838 Roanoke was formed from Botetourt. Its bounds are described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the Blue Ridge which divides the counties of Bedford and Botetourt, thence northwest to the house now the residence of John Bonsack on Glade creek so as to include the said Bonsack in the new county, thence a line to the house of Thomas Barnes including

said Barnes in the county, and so as to leave John W. Thompson in the county of Botetourt, thence a straight line crossing the Catawba Valley at a point one mile due north of Mrs. Garwood's; thence crossing Craig's creek (passing the house of John Spessard on Craig's creek so as to leave the said Spessard in the old county) to the top of the mountain which divides the waters of Craig's creek and Sinking creek, thence westwardly along the top of the mountain to the point where the lines of Botetourt, Montgomery and Giles counties meet, thence with the line which divided the county of Botetourt from the county of Montgomery to the point at which the said line joins the Bedford line, thence with the Bedford line to the beginning.

16. CRAIG COUNTY, 31 MARCH 21, 1851

In 1851 Craig was formed from Botetourt, Roanoke, Giles, and Monroe. Its bounds are described as follows:

Beginning on the top of the Middle mountain at the corner of Monroe and Alleghany counties, near Achilles Dews, and running with the Alleghany line to the top of Peter's mountain; thence westward along the top of said mountain to a point nearby opposite to the house of Boston Rowan; thence crossing Potts' creek to a point one fourth of a mile below Rowan's so as to leave said Rowan's in the county of Monroe; thence a southwestern direction to the top of Potts' mountain, so as to leave Armentrout, Fridley and Rose in Monroe; thence westward along the top of said mountain to a point opposite Colonel R. M. Hutchinson's on John's creek, and thence a straight line including said Hutchinson in the new county, and crossing Sinking creek valley to William Niday's, including said Niday in the new county, to the Montgomery line; thence eastward with the Montgomery line to the corner of Roanoke and Montgomery; thence with the Roanoke line to the top of Brush mountain; thence eastward along said mountain, crossing the Cove branch where John Carper formerly lived; thence along the same range of mountains passing near Lilburn Doss's, crossing Stone Coal gap; thence along the same range of mountains, crossing Price's turnpike road to a point opposite Daniel Sizer's; thence a northwestern direction crossing Craig's creek above said Sizer's to a point one mile from Craig's creek on the ridge; thence to Andrew Persinger's on Barber's creek; thence to the Alleghany line and with the same to the beginning.

From Montgomery came:

Wythe .	1790	Floyd	1831
Giles	1806	Pulaski	1839

17. WYTHE COUNTY, 32 DECEMBER 1, 1789

That from and after the first day of May next, all that part of the County of Montgomery, which lies southwest of a line, beginning on the Henry line, at the head of Big Reedy Island, from thence to the waggon ford on Peek Creek; thence to the Clover bottom on Blue Stone, thence to the Kanawha County line, shall form one distinct county and be called and known by the name of Wythe.

18. GILES COUNTY, 33 JANUARY 16, 1806

The county of Giles formed in 1806 was created from portions of Montgomery, Monroe and Tazewell counties, and is now a border county between Virginia and West Virginia. Its boundaries are thus described:

Beginning at the end of Gauley mountain on New River, where the counties of Greenbrier and Kanawha intersect, thence up the river with the Greenbrier and Montgomery lines to the intersection of Monroe line; thence with the Monroe and Montgomery line to the upper end of Pine's plantation; thence a straight line to the mouth of Rich creek, leaving the plantation of Hugh Caperton on the right; thence with the Monroe line to the intersection of Botetourt County line and with the Botetourt and Montgomery lines to the top of Gap mountain; thence along the top of the said mountain to New River crossing the same to the end of Walker's creek mountain; thence along the top of the said mountain to the intersection of Wythe county line; thence northwestwardly with said line to the intersection of Tazewell line, and with the Tazewell and Montgomery line to the top of Wolf creek mountain; thence along Wolf creek mountain to a path leading from the Round Bottom to Harman's mill about three miles below the mouth of Clear Fork of Wolf creek; thence a straight line to the mouth of Militin's fork; thence a direct line to the head of Crane creek on the top of the Flat-top mountain; thence a direct line to the three forks of Guyandotte river; thence down said river until it intersects Kanawha county line; thence with said line to the beginning.

19. FLOYD COUNTY,34 JANUARY 15, 1831

THE County of Floyd was formed from Montgomery County in 1831 and is bounded as follows:

Beginning at the widow Litterell's, thence a straight line to John Thrasher's; thence a straight line to John Cooper's old place; thence a

straight line to where the Waggon road crosses the Laurel ridge; from thence along the highest part of said ridge to Little river; and down the same to Mack's mountain; and with the same to the Grayson line and with the same to the Patrick line and with the same to the Franklin line and with the same to the line of Montgomery and Franklin, opposite the widow Litterall's; from thence a straight line to the beginning.

20. PULASKI COUNTY,35 MARCH 30, 1839

In 1839 Pulaski was formed from Montgomery, and its bounds are described as follows:

Beginning at a line dividing the county of Giles from Montgomery on New river, thence with same line to the head of a hollow above Hiram Davis's on Little Walker's creek; thence to a point on the main road between the lands of John T. Sayers and Harvey Shepherd including the plantation of David G. Shepherd, thence to the mouth of Pine run on New river, thence to the Grayson county line; including Sally King's plantation on Reed island; thence with the Grayson line to the Floyd line, and with the same to the mouth of Indian creek on Little river, and with the same including the farm of Creed Taylor to New river, and with the same to the beginning.

21. GRAYSON COUNTY, 36 NOVEMBER 7, 1792

In 1793 Grayson was formed from Wythe; and is described as follows:

Beginning in the Washington line where it joins the Iron Mountain, thence along the said mountain to a spur of the same that forms Ewing mountain, keeping the ridge that divides the waters of Cripple and Bush creeks to the top of the said mountain, thence a straight course to the Poplar Camp mountain by Rose's mill thence to the mouth of Greasy creek thence a straight course to the Montgomery line.

22. TAZEWELL COUNTY, 37 DECEMBER 20, 1799

In 1800 Tazewell was formed from Wythe and Russell; and is described as follows:

Beginning on the Kanawha line and running with the line which divides Montgomery and Wythe counties to where the said line crosses the top of Brushy mountain, thence along the top of the said mountain to its junction with the Garden mountain, thence along the top of the said mountain to the Clinch mountain, thence along the top of the said

mountain to the head of Cove creek, a branch of the Maiden Spring fork of Clinch river; thence a straight line to Mann's gap in Kent's ridge; thence north forty-five degrees west, to the line which divides the state of Kentucky from that of Virginia; thence along said line to the Kanawha line and with said line to the place of beginning.

23. CARROLL COUNTY, 38 JANUARY 17, 1842

In 1842 Carroll was formed from Grayson; and is described as follows:

Beginning on the North Carolina line at or near Fisher's peak and running thence a straight line across the said county of Grayson (so as to cross Chestnut creek near the ford at major James Anderson's) to the line of Wythe county thence along said Wythe line to the line of Pulaski county along said Pulaski line to line of Floyd county, thence along said Floyd line to the line of Patrick; thence along the said Patrick line to the North Carolina line thence along said North Carolina line to the point of beginning . . . and be called and known by the name of Carroll in memory of Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

24. BUCHANAN COUNTY,39 FEBRUARY 16, 1858

In 1858 Buchanan was formed from Tazewell; and is described as follows:

Beginning at the state line between Kentucky and Virginia and with said line to its intersection with the line of Wise county, to the top of the dividing ridge between the waters of Sandy and Clinch and with said ridge eastwardly to the head of Dismal, a branch of the Lavica fork of Sandy river; then with the dividing ridge between the waters of Dismal and the waters of the Dry fork of Sandy and with the ridge between the waters of the Lavica fork and the Dry fork to the ridge between Knox creek and Bull creek to Tug river and down Tug river to the beginning.

25. BLAND COUNTY, 40 MARCH 30, 1861

In 1861 Bland was formed from Giles, Wythe, and Tazewell. Its bounds are described as follows:

Beginning at the top of Walker's Little mountain at the line between Wythe and Pulaski and running northwards with said line of Pulaski, to the top of Walker's Big mountain; thence eastward along the top of last mentioned mountain to a point opposite the mouth of Kimberling creek; thence by a line northward passing through the mouth of said Kimber-

ling creek to a point on the top of the mountain which lies south of Wolf creek, three miles east of the present county line between Giles and Tazewell Counties; thence to a point on the top of East river mountain two miles east of the present county line between Giles and Tazewell so as to include the homestead of Madison Allen and his lands adjoining thereto; thence with the top of the said East River mountain westward to a point two miles west of George Steel's house on Clear fork; thence across and by a line as near as may be at right angles to the course of the valley between to the top of Rich mountain and westward along the top of said Rich mountain so far as to include the settlement of Wolf creek, thence across the top of Garden mountain; thence along the top of Garden mountain to a point through which the line between Wythe and Smyth would pass if prolonged; thence by said prolonged line to the said line between Wythe and Smyth and by the last mentioned line to the top of Walker's Big mountain; thence eastward with the top of said Walker's Big mountain to a point opposite the headwaters of Walker's Little creek; thence across the top of Walker's Little mountain, thence to the top of said mountain eastward to the beginning.

From Washington came six counties, namely Russell 1786, Lee 1793, Dickenson 1880, Scott 1814, Smyth 1832, and Wise 1856.

26. RUSSELL COUNTY, 41 JANUARY 6, 1786

In 1786 Russell was formed from Washington. Its bounds are set forth as follows:

All that part of the said county lying within a line to be run along the Clinch mountain to the Carolina line; thence with that line to the Cumberland mountain, and the extent of country between the Cumberland mountain, Clinch mountain and the line of Montgomery county shall be one distinct county and called and known by the name of Russell.

27. LEE COUNTY, 42 OCTOBER 25, 1792

In 1793 Lee was formed from Russell. Its bounds are described as follows:

All that part which lies westwardly of a line beginning on the top of Clinch mountain, one mile eastwardly of big Maukason gap, thence a direct course to the mouth of Stock creek thence up the same to Powell's mountain, thence due north to the Kentucky boundary shall form one distinct county and be called and known by the name of Lee.

28. DICKENSON COUNTY, 43 FEBRUARY 27, 1880

In 1880 Dickenson was formed from Russell, Wise, and Buchanan. Its bounds are described as follows:

Beginning at Osborn's gap in Cumberland mountain on the state line; thence a straight line to the top of George's Fork mountain at a point where the road crosses said mountain; thence with the top of the mountain to the head of Lick branch, a tributary of Crane's Nest creek; thence a straight line to the mouth of Birchfield creek; thence up Crane's Nest creek to the mouth of Lion's fork; thence up said creek to the forks of said branch; thence up the Fork spur to the top of Crane's Nest bridge; thence a straight line to Sandy Ridge meeting-house in the county of Wise on the top of Sandy River; thence with the top of Sandy ridge to the James Porter farm at the head of Nancy's ridge; thence a straight line to Trammel gap on Sandy ridge, thence with the top of Sandy ridge with a line of Russell county to the James P. Kiser farm, thence a straight line to Henry Kiser's farm on the top of Sandy ridge at the Russell county line; thence with the Russell county line to James Rasnaker's farm, including said farm in the new county; thence down the Cany ridge to the mouth of Cany creek; thence down Indian creek to its mouth; including J. H. Duly's farm; thence down Russell's fork of Sandy river to the mouth of Pawpaw creek, including Andrew Owen's dwelling house; thence a straight line to the mouth of Greenbrier creek, a tributary of Prater creek; thence a straight line to the Big Meadow gap; thence down a branch to Greasy creek; thence down said creek to the mouth of Russell's fork of Sandy river; thence down said river to the state line of Virginia and Kentucky; thence with the state line to the beginning.

29. SCOTT COUNTY, 44 NOVEMBER 24, 1814

In 1814 Scott was formed from Lee, Russell, and Washington. Its bounds are described as follows:

Beginning at the head of Reedy creek where the wagon road crosses the same in the County of Washington thence down the Tennessee line to the south fork of Clinch river thence northward passing the Flag Pond to the top of Powell's Mountain in Lee County and along it to the county of Russell and with it to the Kentucky line, thence along Cumberland mountains to the head of Guest's river thence down the Clinch mountain thence to the western end of Samuel Hensley's plantation and thence to the beginning.

30. SMYTH COUNTY, 45 FEBRUARY 23, 1832

In 1832 Smyth was formed from Washington and Wythe; its bounds are set forth as follows:

Beginning on the main stage road at a bridge in a hollow at a point where the spring branch of Phillip Griever deceased crosses the same; thence a direct line, passing equidistant between Preston's and King's salt wells to the line of Russell county; and from the said point on the main stage road aforesaid where the said spring branch crosses the same running south twenty-five degrees east to the southern boundary of Washington county; and beginning on the main stage coach road leading by Abingdon and Wythe courthouse, ten miles by the said road dividing Washington and Wythe counties; running thence northwest to the northern boundary of Wythe county and southeast to the southern boundary of Wythe county. The said line through Wythe county running precisely parallel with the line aforesaid through Washington county.

31. WISE COUNTY, 46 FEBRUARY 16, 1856

In 1856 Wise was formed from Lee, Scott, and Russell. Its bounds are described as follows:

Beginning at the break of Cumberland mountain on the Kentucky and Virginia line where the Pound fork of Sandy breaks through the Cumberland mountain; thence up the Pound fork to the mouth of Crane's nest, a water of said Pound fork; thence with the dividing ridge between the waters of Crane's nest and McLure's, to William Taylor's farm, including said Taylor's farm in the new county; thence a straight line to the mouth of Lick creek; thence down Clinch river to the mouth of Guest's river; thence up Guest's river one mile; thence a straight line to the Camp rock south of the High Knob; thence a straight line to the Pole fence on Little Powell's mountain, on the line dividing Scott and Lee counties; thence with said county line to the head of Stock creek including the farm of Zachariah N. Wells in the said county; thence a straight line to the Cedar gap near Powell's river; thence a straight line to the dividing ridge between the waters of Crab orchard and Pigeon fork; thence with said dividing ridge to the Kentucky line and thence with the Kentucky line to the beginning.

- ¹ 1 Hening, 224.
- ² Ibid., 249.
- ³ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 168.
- 4 Ibid., 92.
- 5 42 Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, 28.
- ⁶ Mason, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, 275.
- ⁷ 1 Hening, 352.
- 8 Ibid., 427.
- 93 Hening, 104.
- 10 4 Hening, 77.
- ¹¹ 1 Hening, 374.
- ¹² Robinson, Virginia Counties, 82.
- ¹³ Petsworth Parish Vestry Book, 10.
- 14 1 Hening, 374.
- 15 Ibid., 427.
- 16 3 Hening, 104.
- 17 1 Hening, 388.
- 18 3 Hening, 94.
- 19 Ibid., 211.
- 20 4 Hening, 77.
- 21 Ibid., 305.
- ²² Ibid., 450.
- 23 5 Hening, 78.
- 24 8 Hening, 395.
- 25 Ibid., 600.
- 26 9 Hening, 257.
- ²⁷ Ibid., 420.
- 28 13 Hening, 165.
- ²⁹ Hiden, How Justice Grew, 55.
- ³⁰ *Ibid.*, 64.
- 31 Ibid., 71.
- 32 Ibid., 46.
- 33 Ibid., 51.
- 34 Ibid., 57.
- 35 Ibid., 64.
- 36 Ibid., 48.
- 37 Ibid., 50.
- 38 Ibid., 65.
- 39 Ibid., 74.
- 40 Ibid., 75.
- 41 Ibid., 45.
- 42 Ibid., 48.
- 43 Ibid., 76.
- 44 Ibid., 53.
- 45 Ibid., 58.
- 46 Ibid., 72.

Charles River later York Parishes and the Parishes in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia Descended Therefrom

CHARLES RIVER AND YORK PARISHES

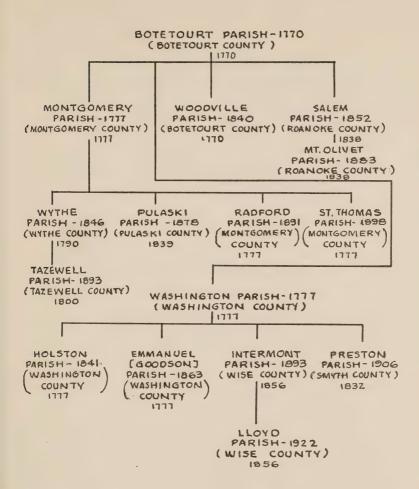
AND THE PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA DESCENDED THEREFROM.

CHARLES RIVER PARISHES-1634-1643
YORK PARISHES-1643

NEW POQUOSON PARISH
YORK PARISH
CHISKIACK PARISH
MARSTON PARISH
MIDDLE PLANTATION PARISH

CHARLES RIVER-1634-1643 YORK COUNTY-1643

BLISLAND PARISH - 1653 STRATTON-MAJOR PARISH-1655 UNNAMED PARISH - 1651 ST. STEPHENS PARISH - 1674 THE UPPER PARISH - 1654 ST. PETER'S PARISH - 1678 THE LOWER PARISH - 1654 ST. JOHN'S PARISH - 1680 (LANCASTER COUNTY - 1651) (NEW KENT COUNTY - 1654) STRATTON-MAJOR PARISH-1655 FARNHAM PARISH - 1654 -ST. STEPHENS PARISH - 1674 SITTENBURNE PARISH - 1661 ST. JOHN'S PARISH -1680 SOUTH FARNHAM PARISH- 1684 (KING & QUEEN COUNTY - 1691) (RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY-1656) - ST. JOHN'S PARISH - 1680 SOUTH FARNHAM PARISH - 1684 ST. MARGARETS PARISH- 1720 SITTENBURNE PARISH - 1661 ST. PAVIOS PARISH - 1744 - ST. MARY'S PARISH - 1692 (KING WILLIAM COUNTY-1702) ST. ANNE'S PARISH - 1704 (ESSEX COUNTY - 1692) ST. GEORGES PARISH - 1721 ST. MARK'S PARISH- 1730 (SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY-1721) ST. MARKS PARISH- (730 (ORANGE COUNTY - 1734) AUGUSTA PARISH - 1738 (AUGUSTA COUNTY- 1738) BOTETOURT ALLEGHANY ROCKBRIDGE BOYDEN JACKSON RIVER PARISH-1770 PARISH-1778 PARISH-1837 PARISH-1904 PAR 15H-1905 (ALLEGHANY) (BOTETOURT) (ROCKBRIDGE) (AUGUSTA (COUNTY-1718) (COUNTY-1718) (COUNTY-1718) (See Page 113) LATIMER PARISH-1846 NATURAL BRIDGE PARISH-1897 (ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY-1778) (ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY- 1778)





CHARLES RIVER LATER YORK PARISHES AND THE PARISHES

in the

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA DESCENDED THEREFROM

CHARLES RIVER PARISHES 1634-1643 YORK PARISHES 1643

New Poquoson Parish
Chiskiack Parish
Marston Parish
Middle Plantation Parish
(Charles River, later York County 1634)

CHARLES RIVER SHIRE or County was one of the original shires or counties created by the Grand Assembly in 1634. It is assumed that the creation of Charles River County in 1634 carried with it the establishment of a parish by the same name. The name of the county was changed in 1643 to York County.

There is evidence that prior to 1634 the unofficial division of the county into parishes had begun. Each of the earliest settlements in the county soon developed into a plantation parish, bounded only by the extent of the population, with the result that the county was soon divided into five distinct parish organizations.

These five seventeenth-century parishes were described as follows:³

- 1. New Poquoson, from Back River to Poquoson River
- 2. York, from Poquoson River to Morgan's Creek
- 3. Chiskiack, from Morgan's Creek to Queen's Creek
- 4. Marston, from Queen's Creek to Scimino Creek
- 5. Middle Plantation, comprising the settlement of that name between Queen's Creek and Archer's Hope Creek (now College Creek)

New Poquoson's name was changed in 1692 to Charles Parish.

York Parish—there is no record establishing a parish, but it had an inducted minister in 1638.

Chiskiack Parish was established in 1640 and its name was changed to Hampton Parish in 1643.

Marston Parish, including the upper part of York County, was created a parish in 1654.

Middle Plantation combined with Harrop Parish in James City County to form Middletown Parish. In 1674 Middletown and Marston Parishes were united to form the present Bruton Parish. In 1706 York and Hampton Parishes were combined into Yorkhampton Parish, with which Martin's Hundred Parish, in James City County, was united in 1712.

The Colony was growing and the population was pressing northward and northwestward, and settlements were being established on the north side of the York River. From York County came first Gloucester County in 1651, in which county we find Abingdon, Petsworth, Ware, and Kingston Parishes. The latter parish was to become the parish in Mathews County in 1791.

In the same year the northern part of York County was taken to form the southern portion of Lancaster County along the south side of the Rappahannock River.

Since that portion of Lancaster County lying south of the Rappahannock River was taken from York County in 1651, we will first follow the creation of the parishes along the southern





side of the Rappahannock River through Lancaster, Rappahannock and Essex Counties.

New Kent County was created from York County in 1654. Next we will follow the parishes created in New Kent, King and Queen, and King William Counties.

Spotsylvania County was formed in 1721 from the heads of Essex, King and Queen and King William Counties, and St. George's Parish in Spotsylvania County was formed from St. Stephen's Parish in King and Queen County, St. John's Parish in King William County, and St. Mary's Parish in Essex County. In Spotsylvania County and St. George's Parish, the counties and parishes along the southern banks of the Rappahannock River unite with the middle Virginia counties and parishes on their westward march through Orange and Augusta Counties to and across the mountains into the Valley of the Shenandoah and the Valley of Southwest Virginia.

We will now follow the line of parishes lying along the south side of the Rappahannock River, beginning with the unnamed parish in Lancaster County.

UNNAMED PARISH 1651 THE UPPER PARISH 1654 THE LOWER PARISH 1654

(Lancaster County 1651)

Lancaster County was formed from Northumberland and York Counties in 1651.⁴ The county included the territory from the watershed in Northumberland County, across the Rappahannock River to the Piankatank River in York County, from the mouth of the Rappahannock River westward. It was the parent county of the Rappahannock Valley, lying on both sides of the river as far as any settlements were established.

Following its formation from Northumberland and York Counties in 1651, Lancaster nominally constituted one parish,

bearing the county's name, but there is no record that such a parish was ever really organized.⁵ The new county was divided by county court order of 7th August 1654, into two parishes, designated as the Upper Parish and the Lower Parish, and each occupying both sides of the Rappahannock River. No names other than these were given in the court order, but the name Farnham was within a few years given to the Upper Parish. The Upper Parish, or Farnham Parish, being farther up the river, formed the frontier of the county and had an indefinite extension westward. This frontier parish, covering both sides of the river, was cut off in 1656 as Rappahannock County, leaving Lancaster County coterminous with the former Lower Parish. The dividing line was the same as the line dividing the parishes formed in 1654

The parish on the south side (Lower Parish) was divided into two parishes in 1657, namely Lancaster and Pianketanke Parishes. In 1666 these two parishes were united and the parish thus established was Christ Church Parish, which became Christ Church Parish in Middlesex County when that county was formed in 1669. In the meanwhile (old) Rappahannock County was formed from Lancaster County in 1656.

FARNHAM PARISH 1654 SITTENBURNE PARISH 1661 SOUTH FARNHAM PARISH 1684

(Rappahannock County 1656)

RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY was formed in 1656 from Lancaster County.⁷ At that time there were two parishes in Lancaster County, generally known as The Upper Parish and The Lower Parish. Since the county lay on both sides of the Rappahannock River, the parishes were likewise on both sides of the river. Prior to the formation of Rappahannock County, The Upper Parish had become known as Farnham Parish. The county lines were laid in conformity with the parish lines, so that the new

county was in Farnham Parish. The Lower Parish remained in Lancaster County, and in 1657 was divided into Lancaster and Pianketanke Parishes.

In 1661 Sittenburne Parish was created from Farnham Parish—so there were now in Rappahannock County two parishes, Farnham and Sittenburne, each lying on both sides of the Rappahannock River. Sittenburne Parish was the western, or frontier, parish.

In 1684 Farnham Parish was divided into North Farnham and South Farnham Parishes; the river was the dividing line.8

SITTENBURNE PARISH 1661 SOUTH FARNHAM PARISH 1684 ST. MARY'S PARISH 1692 ST. ANNE'S PARISH 1704 (Essex County 1692)

In 1692 Rappahannock County disappeared when Essex and Richmond Counties were formed out of it; again the Rappahannock River was the dividing line between the two counties.

North Farnham Parish formed a considerable part of Richmond County and South Farnham Parish formed a considerable part of Essex County. Sittenburne Parish covered the remaining portion of each of the counties.

Sittenburne Parish was divided by the creation of St. Mary's Parish.⁹ This probably occurred at the time Essex and Richmond Counties were formed. The new parish took in both sides of the river. St. Mary's Parish was taken from the western portion of Sittenburne Parish and thus became the frontier parish.

In 1704 Sittenburne Parish, which was still on both sides of the Rappahannock River, was divided by the Assembly. On the north side of the river Sittenburne Parish was retained as the name of the parish, but St. Anne's Parish was the name given to that portion of Sittenburne Parish which lay on the south side of the river.¹⁰

Thus Sittenburne Parish disappeared as a parish on the south side of the Rappahannock River. Sittenburne Parish, on the north side of the river, became extinct when in 1732 that part of the parish still remaining in Richmond and King George Counties was divided between Hanover Parish in King George County and the new parish of Lunenburg in Richmond County.

In 1713 a new parish, called St. George's Parish, was formed in Essex County on the south side of the Rappahannock River, within the bounds of St. Mary's Parish at Germanna on the Rapidan River above the falls of the Rappahannock River. This parish was about ten miles square and was formed (in the same way that King William Parish in Henrico Parish had been formed for the French immigrants) for the benefit of certain German Protestants who had settled at Germanna, so as to relieve them from the payment of parish levies and to enable them to have their own minister. The Act for establishing St. George's Parish is not found in Hening's Statutes.

We will now follow the creation of the parishes from the southern and middle portions of York County.

BLISLAND PARISH 1653 STRATTON-MAJOR PARISH 1655 ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH 1674 ST. PETER'S PARISH 1678 ST. JOHN'S PARISH 1680 (New Kent County 1654)

It is most probable that Blisland Parish was coterminous with the new county. It is believed to have been formed in 1653. 12 There are on record five land grants issued in 1653 which refer to Blisland Parish. No enactment, however, has been found to establish definitely its creation. Since it was a very large parish, its area was reduced by the cutting off of various parishes now included in the counties of King and Queen, King William, and Hanover. 13

The original area and extent of the parish has not been determined, but it possibly embraced the entire watershed of the Pamunkey-Mattaponi-York river system from Poropotank Creek on the north side of the York River and Scimino Creek on the south side, westward to an indefinite extent. It was the mother parish of Stratton-Major, St. Peter's and St. John's Parishes.

The first reduction in Blisland's area took place when, by an order of the Grand Assembly dated March 24, 1655, Stratton-Major Parish was established.¹⁴ It was described in the order as follows:

that from Poropotank to Mattapony upward on the north side of York River be a distinct parish by the name of Stratton-Major.

The parish had an indefinite extension up the Mattaponi River watershed, above New Kent's lower boundary at Poropotank Creek and was bounded on the south by the Pamunkey River, whose lower section was then considered as the upper end of York River.

Stratton-Major Parish from its creation in 1655 to 1691 was in New Kent County, and after that date it was in King and Queen County.

The first division of Stratton-Major Parish took place in 1674, or before, when St. Stephen's Parish was created. The exact date is in doubt. The new parish lay to the northwest, on both sides of the Mattaponi, beginning at Heartsease Creek. The exact boundaries of the parish were not found.

In 1680 the southern parts of Stratton-Major and St. Stephen's Parishes were taken to form the new parish of St. John's. ¹⁵ Later St. John's Parish was included in King William County, which was formed in 1702. The parish covered the area between the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers.

In 1678 what remained of the original Blisland Parish was divided and its western portion became St. Peter's Parish.¹⁶

In 1704, when St. Peter's Parish was divided, the upper (or northwestern) portion was established as St. Paul's Parish. The dividing line between the two parishes, Matadequin Creek,

became the dividing line between New Kent County and the newly created Hanover County. This line then became the northwest boundary line of St. Peter's Parish.

But before St. Peter's Parish had in 1704 limited itself to the northwest boundary, it suffered a considerable loss of territory and inhabitants. In 1691, by the Act establishing King and Queen County, the Grand Assembly cut off from St. Peter's Parish all that part of its territory lying northeast of the Pamunkey River and annexed it to St. John's Parish (established in 1680 or later), thus making St. John's Parish include the whole of the Pamunkey Neck; that is, the present King William County and the other counties between the Mattaponi River and the north fork (North Anna) of the Pamunkey River.

Prior to the establishment of King and Queen County in 1691 from New Kent County, there had been created in New Kent County the following parishes: Blisland Parish 1653; Stratton-Major Parish 1655; St. Peter's Parish 1678; St. John's Parish 1680. St. Stephen's Parish was taken from Stratton-Major Parish in 1674.

STRATTON-MAJOR PARISH 1655 ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH 1674 ST. JOHN'S PARISH 1680 (King and Queen County 1691)

WHEN King and Queen County was formed from New Kent County in 1691, it included that area lying south of Dragon Run, or Swamp, which was the southern boundary of Middlesex County and the Pamunkey River on the south side, its eastern boundary was the Poropotank River. The western boundary was unlimited.

The area above described as King and Queen County contained three established parishes which had been created when the area was included in New Kent County. Stratton-Major and St. Stephen's Parish were on the north side of the Mattaponi River and St. John's Parish was on the south side of the river. These had all been active parishes.

ST. JOHN'S PARISH 1680

(King William County 1702)

THE southern part of Stratton-Major and St. Stephen's Parishes, between the Mattaponi River and the ridge down the west side of Pamunkey Neck, was created in 1680 as St. John's Parish.

In 1691, when King and Queen County was created, the area between the Pamunkey Neck ridge and Pamunkey River, at that time a part of St. Peter's Parish, was included in St. John's Parish, making the latter parish coterminous with Pamunkey Neck, which was then formed into the new county of King William in 1701.

Later, in 1720, the upper part of St. John's Parish was cut off to form St. Margaret's Parish and a similar division of St. Stephen's Parish in 1723 created Drysdale Parish.

In 1744 the upper end of St. John's Parish and the section of St. Margaret's Parish below the Caroline County line were taken to form St. David's Parish.¹⁷

This completes the south side line of parishes which descend from Charles River or York Parishes. The north line of parishes descend from York County through that portion of Lancaster County, and its descendents, south of the Rappahannock River originally a part of York County. The south line of parishes descend from York County through New Kent County and its descendents. The two lines of parishes now join to form St. George's Parish in Spotsylvania County.

St. George's Parish, which covered entirely the newly formed frontier county of Spotsylvania, was created from parishes in Essex, King and Queen, and King William Counties. Spotsylvania County included a wide band across the middle peninsula from the Rappahannock River to the Hanover County line. The county covers the territory south of the Rappahannock River south to the North Anna River (Hanover County line) and extending westward over and beyond the high mountains. The county was taken from the heads of Essex, King and Queen, and King William Counties.

ST. GEORGE'S PARISH 1721 ST. MARK'S PARISH 1730

(Spotsylvania County 1721)

THE Act establishing the County of Spotsylvania from the heads of Essex, King and Queen, and King William Counties in 1721 states that "The whole county of Spotsylvania made one parish, by the name of St. George." ¹⁸

St. George's Parish (originally created for the German Protestants) thus enlarged was formed on the heads of and united three lines of parishes springing from St. Mary's Parish in Essex County, St. Stephen's Parish in King and Queen County, and St. John's Parish in King William County.¹⁹

That portion of Essex Coupty so taken was in St. Mary's Parish. In tracing the parishes in (Old) Rappahannock and Essex Counties we have set forth the line of parishes into South Farnham Parish. We have also shown the formation of St. Mary's Parish in Essex County from Sittenburne Parish about the time Essex County was formed in 1692. When Spotsylvania County was formed, in 1721, all of St. Mary's Parish in Essex County fell into the new county. At the first meeting of Essex County Court (May 10, 1692), upon organization of the county, St. Mary's Parish is mentioned as being already in existence. In 1713, when St. George's Parish was originally formed, it was taken from St. Mary's Parish.

That portion of Spotsylvania County taken from King and Queen County was in St. Stephen's Parish. This latter parish had been formed in 1674 or prior, from Stratton-Major Parish. In Patent Book 6, p. 502, is record of two patents issued on February 18, 1673, both of which mention land in St. Stephen's Parish, which would indicate that St. Stephen's Parish existed in New Kent County prior to 1691 when King and Queen County was formed from New Kent County in 1691.

The remaining portion of Spotsylvania County was taken from King William County and St. John's Parish, which was formed in 1680. St. John's Parish was divided and St. Margaret's Parish was formed in 1720, by Act of Assembly effective May 1,

1721.²¹ This was about one year after Spotsylvania County was formed by (November 2, 1720) Act of Assembly.

St. George's Parish was divided in 1730, and St. Mark's Parish was formed:²²

That from and after the first day of January, 1731, the said parish of St. George, be divided into two distinct parishes: From the mouth of the Rappidan, to the mouth of Wilderness run, thence up said run to the bridge, and then southwest to the Pamunkey. And all that part of the said parish which lies below the said bounds shall forever thereafter remain, be called and known by the name of St. George Parish; And that all that other part of the said parish which lies above the said bounds, shall thereafter be called and known by the name of St. Mark.

Spotsylvania County was divided and Orange County was created in 1735.²³

ST. MARK'S PARISH 1730

(Orange County 1735)

When Orange County was formed from Spotsylvania County, it included that part of Spotsylvania County known as St. Mark's Parish. Out of St. Mark's Parish was formed St. Thomas' Parish, Orange County, in 1740, but prior thereto, in 1738, Augusta County was formed from Orange County.

AUGUSTA PARISH 1738 (Augusta County 1738)

When Augusta County was formed from Orange County in 1738²⁴ the parish of Augusta was created. The bounds of the parish included the entire territory west of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the farthest limits of Virginia, except the territory south of the Potomac River which was in the Northern Neck.

From Augusta Parish were created five separate parishes, namely:

Botetourt Parish in 1770 Rockbridge Parish in 1778 Boyden Parish in 1837 Alleghany Parish in 1903 Jackson River Parish in 1904 Each of these parishes will be followed separately in the order in which they were created from Augusta Parish.

BOTETOURT PARISH 1770

(Botetourt County 1770)

WHEN Botetourt County was formed from Augusta County in 1769²⁵ Botetourt County and Parish were created, the parish to have the same bounds as the county.

Botetourt County was divided, and from it was formed Fincastle County in 1772,²⁶ but no new parish was created. Subsequently, in 1777,²⁷ Fincastle County became extinct when it was divided into three counties: Montgomery, Washington, and Kentucky.

The Act creating the counties of Montgomery, Washington, and Kentucky from Fincastle County also created Montgomery, Washington, and Kentucky Parishes. Omitting Kentucky Parish, we find that out of Montgomery and Washington Parishes were created all of the present parishes west of Botetourt County.

A portion of the original parish of Botetourt remains an active parish.

ROCKBRIDGE PARISH 1778

(Rockbridge County 1778)

THE Act creating Rockbridge County from Augusta County also created Rockbridge Parish.²⁸ The Act contains a description of the county and parish by metes and bounds. Rockbridge Parish has been overlooked, or probably not known, because Latimer Parish and Natural Bridge Parish have both been established in Rockbridge County and no reference was made to Rockbridge Parish many years prior thereto.

BOYDEN PARISH 1837

(Augusta County 1738)

By a resolution adopted by the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia,²⁹ a new parish was established within Augusta County,

to be known by the name of Boyden Parish. Its metes and bounds were described as follows:

To be composed of all that part of Augusta County lying and being South and East of the stage road, from Winchester to Lexington by way of....., except so much thereof as may be within three miles of the Town of Staunton.

ALLEGHANY PARISH 1903

(Alleghany County 1822)

By action of the Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia,³⁰ Alleghany Parish was created from Augusta Parish. Its metes and bounds are as follows:

Resolved, that all that portion of Alleghany County, Virginia, which lies West of a line drawn from the Bath County line along the top of Little Mountain, extending to McGraw's Gap, and thence a straight line crossing the C. & O. Railway one mile east of Low Moor furnace and extending to the Botetourt line, be divided from Augusta Parish, of which it now forms a part, and be constituted a new parish, with all the rights and privileges of other parishes of the Diocese, said new parish to be known as Alleghany Parish.

The Council recognized the fact that Alleghany County was still within the bounds of Augusta Parish.

JACKSON RIVER PARISH 1904

(Alleghany County 1822)

By action of the Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia,³¹ Jackson River Parish was created from Augusta Parish. The resolution creating the parish states:

... to be set apart from Augusta Parish in order that they may form a new, separate and distinct parish to be known as Jackson River Parish, and to include all that part of Alleghany County not included in Alleghany Parish.

From Botetourt Parish were created four parishes:

Montgomery Parish in 1777 Washington Parish in 1777 Woodville Parish in 1840 Salem Parish in 1852 These parishes are shown as created from Botetourt Parish because that parish covered Fincastle County and no parish was ever created in Fincastle County.

MONTGOMERY PARISH 1777

(Montgomery County 1777)

Montgomery Parish was created from Botetourt Parish by an Act of the Assembly.³² Montgomery County had been created from Fincastle County, but no parish had been created in that county, so Botetourt Parish still existed therein. The bounds of Montgomery Parish were stated to be the same limits as the County of Montgomery, which in 1777 included the counties of Montgomery, Grayson, Giles, Wythe, Tazewell, Floyd, Pulaski, Buchanan, Carroll, and Bland. A portion of the original Montgomery Parish remains an active parish.

WASHINGTON PARISH 1777

(Washington County 1777)

As far as the records disclose, there was no active parish in the entire county. Washington County at that time included the following counties: Washington, Smyth, Russell, Dickenson, Scott, Wise, and Lee. Later, when churches were established in this area, new parishes were created, but there is no active parish by the name of Washington.

WOODVILLE PARISH 1840

(Botetourt County 1770)

THIS parish was created from Botetourt Parish by a resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.³³ No metes and bounds of the new parish were given. Parochial Report of Woodville Parish Convention, Diocese of Virginia,³⁴ states that the parish embraced Rockbridge County and a part of Botetourt.

SALEM PARISH 1852

(Roanoke County 1838)

This parish was created from Botetourt Parish by a resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia, 35 with the boundaries of Roanoke County as its limits.

From Rockbridge Parish were created two parishes:

Latimer Parish Natural Bridge Parish

LATIMER PARISH 1846

(Rockbridge County 1778)

THIS parish was created by a resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.³⁶ No reference is made to the fact that Rockbridge Parish had already been created in 1777. No metes and bounds of the parish were given.

NATURAL BRIDGE PARISH 1897

(Rockbridge County 1778)

This parish was created by a resolution of the Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.³⁷ Here again no metes and bounds are given, and it is impossible to tell whether any part of Rockbridge Parish remains or whether Latimer Parish and Natural Bridge Parish were intended to include all of Rockbridge County. The resolution of the Council stated that the metes and bounds of the parish were filed with the petition to create the new parish. These records have not been located.

From Montgomery Parish came:

Wythe Parish in 1846 Pulaski Parish in 1878 Radford Parish in 1891 St. Thomas' Parish in 1898

WYTHE PARISH 1846 (Wythe County 1790)

This parish was created from Montgomery Parish by a resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.³⁸ No metes and bounds of the parish were given. It is assumed that the parish included the entire county. The name of the parish in the Journal is "Wytheville Parish"; later it has been called "Wythe Parish."

PULASKI PARISH 1878 (Pulaski County 1839)

THIS parish was created from Montgomery Parish by a resolution based upon a petition from Emmanuel Church, Dublin, which erroneously states that it is created from West Augusta Parish.³⁹ West Augusta District was that part of Augusta County west of the Alleghany Mountains and northeast of the line between Augusta and Botetourt Counties. The metes and bounds of the new parish are as follows:

All that part of the County bounded by the County lines of said County to a point in the eastern part of said County on the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio railroad known as Morgan's Cut, and to lines extending due north and south from said point to Giles County on the north and New River on the south.

The name of the new parish was not mentioned. In the parochial reports, Emmanuel Church, Dublin, is reported in Pulaski Parish

RADFORD PARISH 1891 (Montgomery County 1777)

This parish was created from parts of Montgomery Parish and Pulaski Parish by a resolution of the Council of the Diocese of Virginia.⁴⁰ The metes and bounds of the parish are as follows:

Beginning at Morgan's Cut on the Norfolk & Western R. R. in Pulaski County, thence due north to the Giles County line, thence with said county line to the New River, thence up New River to the mouth of Wall's Creek, thence in a straight line to Chrisman's Mill on the Norfolk

& Western R. R. in Montgomery County; thence to Bean's Shop on the old Christiansburg turnpike, thence to a point on Little River opposite the village of Snowville, thence down Little River, thence up New River to a point, due south from Morgan's Cut, thence due north to the Beginning.

ST. THOMAS' PARISH 1898 (Montgomery County 1777)

This parish was created from Montgomery Parish by a resolution of the Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.⁴¹ The bounds of the parish are as follows:

Resolved, That the portion of Montgomery Parish bounded on the north by a line beginning at Vicker's Switch on the Norfolk & Western R. R., thence in a straight line to Big Tunnel on said railroad, thence following the railroad and the eastern end of the parish, be and is newly declared to be a separate parish, to be known by the name of St. Thomas' Parish.

From Washington Parish came:

Holston Parish in 1846 Emmanuel Parish (Goodson) in 1863 Intermont Parish in 1893 Preston Parish in 1906

HOLSTON PARISH 1841 (Washington County 1777)

THIS parish was created by resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.⁴² No metes and bounds were given. The Council did not know, or overlooked, the fact that when Washington County was formed from Fincastle County, Washington Parish was created by the same Act. At the time Washington County was created in 1777, it included the following counties: Washington, Smyth, Russell, Dickenson, Scott, Wise, and Lee.

EMMANUEL (GOODSON) PARISH 1863

(Washington County 1777)

THIS parish was created by a resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia⁴³ and was to be known as Emmanuel Parish. Like Holston Parish, no reference is made to Washington Parish. No metes and bounds are given. No action of Council was found changing the name to Goodson Parish, by which it has been called in recent years.

INTERMONT PARISH 1893

(Wise County 1856)

THIS parish was created by a resolution of the Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.⁴⁴ In fact, it was a part of Washington Parish, but the resolution states that no parish is now existing or has ever existed in Wise County. The metes and bounds of the new parish are the metes and bounds of Wise County as it exists at present. Later, in 1922, Lloyd Parish was taken from Intermont Parish.

PRESTON PARISH 1906

(Smyth County 1832)

This parish was created by a resolution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.⁴⁵ The petition for the establishment states that the new parish was taken from Holston Parish and was bounded by the lines of Smyth County. By resolution of the Diocese of Southern Virginia,⁴⁶ the line between Holston Parish and Preston Parish was fixed as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the county road between Saltville and Glade Spring, with the county line between Washington and Smyth Counties in the said town of Saltville, and following said county road in a southerly direction to the corner of Mr. James P. Mason's between Glade Spring and Old Glade where the road intersects with the old stage road south of Glade Spring, thence easterly along said stage road to its intersection with the Smyth County line near Mrs. Mary S. Greever's.

From Salem Parish was created one parish—Mt. Olivet:

MT. OLIVET PARISH 1883 (Roanoke County 1838)

This parish was created from Salem Parish by a resolution of the Convention of the Diocese of Virginia.⁴⁷ The new parish is described as:

So much of the County of Roanoke as is included in the magisterial district of Big Lick, excepting so much of said district as is included between the macadamized road and an imaginary line parallel with said road and half a mile south of the same.

From Wythe Parish was created one parish—Tazewell:

TAZEWELL PARISH 1893 (Tazewell County 1800)

THIS parish was created from Wythe Parish by a resolution of the Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia;⁴⁸ the new parish to be coterminous with the boundaries of Tazewell County.

From Intermont Parish was created one parish-Lloyd:

LLOYD PARISH 1922 (Wise County 1856)

THIS parish was created by a resolution of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia.⁴⁹ The new parish was taken from Intermont Parish and its metes and bounds are given as "all that portion of Intermont Parish lying within the now established boundaries of Gladeville, Roberson and Lipps Magisterial Districts of Wise County."

NOTES

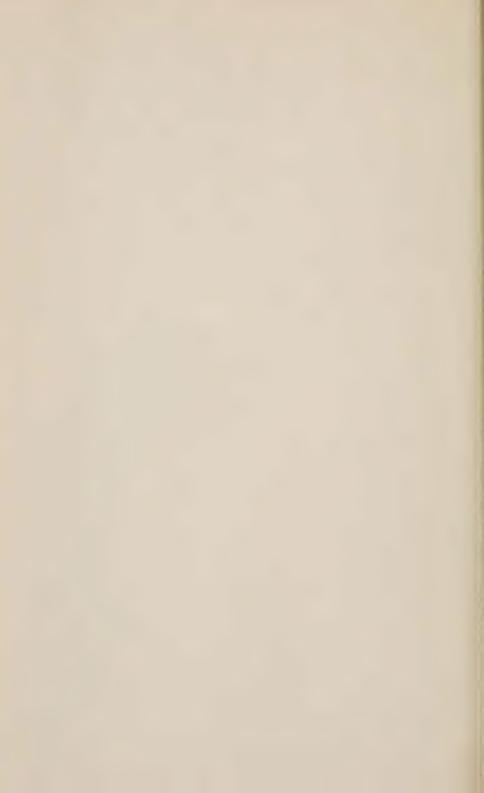
- ¹ Mason, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, 218.
- ² 1 Hening, 249.
- ³ Mason, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, 218.
- ⁴ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 57.
- ⁵ 54 Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, 233.
- 6 2 Hening, 252.

- 7 1 Ibid., 427
- 8 Goodwin, Parish Lines, Diocese of Virginia, 101.
- 9 Ibid., 85.
- 10 Ibid., 69.
- 11 House of Burgesses, Journals, 1712-1714, 110.
- ¹² Mason, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, 22.
- 13 Blisland Parish Vestry Book, 1721-1786, X, XXVIII.
- ¹⁴ 1 Hening, 404.
- 15 Mason, Colonial Churches of Tidewater Virginia, 294.
- 16 Ibid., 294.
- 17 5 Hening, 254.
- 18 4 Ibid., 77.
- 19 Goodwin, Parish Lines, Diocese of Virginia, 72.
- ²⁰ Ibid., 85.
- 21 18 William and Mary Quarterly (2), 110; 4 Hening, 94.
- ²² 4 Hening, 405.
- 23 Ibid., 450.
- 24 5 Ibid., 78.
- 25 8 Ibid., 395.
- ²⁶ Ibid., 600.
- ²⁷ 9 *Ibid.*, 257.
- ²⁸ Ibid., 420.
- ²⁹ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1837, 5.
- 30 Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1903, 49.
- 31 Ibid., 1904, 34.
- 32 9 Hening, 261.
- 33 Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1840, 8.
- ³⁴ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1842, 40.
- 35 Ibid., 1852, 33.
- 38 Ibid., 1846, 62.
- ³⁷ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1897, 43.
- 38 Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1846, 62.
- 39 Ibid., 1878, 109.
- 40 Ibid., 1891, 74.
- ⁴¹ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1898, 40.
- 42 Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1841, 11.
- 43 Ibid., 1863, 25.
- ⁴⁴ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1893, 42.
- 45 Ibid., 1906, 40, 69.
- 46 Ibid., 1914, 59.
- 47 Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1883, 62.
- ⁴⁸ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1893, 42.
- ⁴⁹ Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, Journal 1922, 21, 107.

Parishes in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia When and How Created



WASHINGTON: Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Smyth, ROCKBRIDGE: Rockbridge Scott, Wise, Washington PATRICK: Patrick, Henry a JAMES MOKE 4 AUGUSTA COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA Showing Nine Parishes in Existence May 18, 1785, in the I ATRICK/HENRY Present Diocese of Southwestern Virginia 1611 C 1842 THE AUGUSTA: Augusta, Alleghany, Highland, Bath NAN 0 MONTGOMERY: Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, GRAYSON <u>ч</u> Pulaski, Carroll, Wythe, Grayson, Bland, BOTETOURT: Craig, Botetourt, Roanoke RUSSELL: Campbell, Bedford, Franklin TENNESSEE LEXINGTON: Amherst Tazewell, Buchanan AMHERST: Nelson



PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA WHEN AND HOW CREATED

I. CREATED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRIOR TO 1785:

1.	Augusta	Parish,	1738,	Augusta	County ¹
	Included	the Co	unties	of.	

Augusta173	38	Bath	1791
Alleghany182	22	Highland	1847

2. Russell Parish, 1754, Bedford County²

Included the Counties of:

Bedford	1754	Franklin	1786
Campbell	1782		

Campbell County was formed from Bedford County in 1782, but no mention was made of the establishment of a parish. The parishes of Lynchburg and Moore were created later, the exact date not found.³

Franklin County was formed from Bedford County in 1786, but no mention was made of the establishment of a parish. Franklin Parish was created by Diocese of Virginia in 1842.⁴

3. Amherst Parish, 1761, Part of Amherst County⁵
Included that part of Amherst County now Nelson County.

4.	Botetourt Parish,	1770, Boteto	urt County ⁶	
	Included the Counties of:			
	BotetourtRoanoke		Craig	1851
5.	Montgomery Par	ish, 1777, Mc	ontgomery County ⁷	
	Included the Cou	inties of:		
	Montgomery	1777	Carroll	1842
	Giles		Grayson	1793
	Floyd	1831	Wythe	1790
	Bland		Tazewell	
	Pulaski	1839	Buchanan	1858
6.	Washington Paris	sh, 1777, Was	hington County ⁸	
	Included the Cou	nties of:		
	Washington	1777	Scott	1814
	Russell		Smyth	1832
	Wise	1790	Dickenson	1880
	Lee	1793		
7.	Rockbridge Parish, 1778, Rockbridge County ⁹ Included the County of Rockbridge.			
8.	Patrick Parish, 1 County ¹⁰	1778 (later H	Tenry Parish, 1894),	Henry
	Included the Cou	nties of:		
	Henry	1777	Patrick	1791
9.	_		of Amherst County ¹¹	
	Included all of pr	resent County	of Amnerst.	

II. CREATED BY DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA, 1785-1892

Nelson	1808	Wythe	1846
Lynchburg	?	Salem	1852
Moore	?	Emmanuel	
West Russell	1836	(Goodson)	1863
Boyden	1837	Bath	?
Woodville	1840	Lee	1873
Holston	1841	Amherst	1876
Franklin	1842	Pulaski	1878
Heber	1843	Mt. Olivet	1883
Hamner	1846	Radford	1891
Latimer	1846		

Note: Lynchburg, Moore, Nelson, and Bath were recognized as parishes, but no action was ever taken by the Assembly or by Council to create them.

III. CREATED BY DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA, 1892-1919

Tazewell1893	Jackson River1904
Intermont1893	Preston1906
St. Thomas1898	Natural Bridge1907
Alleghany1903	

IV. CREATED BY DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA, 1919-

Lloyd1922

NOTES

- ¹ 5 Hening, 78.
- ² 6 *Ibid.*, 381.
- ³ 2 Meade, 17.
- ⁴ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1842, 14.
- ⁵ 7 Hening, 419.
- 6 8 Ibid., 395.
- ⁷ 9 *Ibid.*, 257.
- 8 9 *Ibid.*, 257.9 9 *Ibid.*, 420.
- 10 9 *Ibid.*, 567.
- 11 9 Ibid., 567.



Parishes
in the
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
1958



PARISHES

in the

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA 1958

NAMES OF PARISHES

Alleghany County

THE COUNTY takes its name from the great chain of mountains that form its western border. The English settlers received the name from the Indians. The Indian name means "Endless," and to the casual observer the mountains probably appeared "endless."

The first parish received the name Alleghany Parish, the second parish Jackson River Parish. The Jackson and Cowpasture Rivers unite to form the James River.

Amherst County

Named for Major General Sir Jeffrey Amherst, hero of Ticonderoga, who was appointed Governor of Virginia in 1759 but who never came to Virginia.

Amherst Parish was named for the county. Lexington Parish was formed in 1778 and was no doubt in patriotic spirit named for the then recent Battle of Lexington.

Augusta County

Named in honor of Princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha, wife of Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of George III.

Augusta Parish was named for the County. Boyden Parish was named for the Rev. Ebenezer Boyden, rector of Augusta Parish in 1829.

Bath County

This county takes its name from its numerous and remarkable springs and baths. The parish was named for the county.

Bedford County

Named for John Russell, fourth Duke of Bedford, who was Secretary of State for Great Britain 1748-51.

Russell Parish was named for John Russell.

West Russell Parish followed the name of its mother parish.

Heber Parish was named for the English bishop of Calcutta, India, the Rt. Rev. Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, the distinguished hymn writer.

Hamner Parish was named for the Rev. N. Hamner Cobbs, eminent rector of Russell Parish, 1836; later Bishop of Alabama.

Lee Parish was named for General Robert E. Lee.

Botetourt County

Named for Norborne Berkeley, Lord Botetourt, Governor of Virginia, 1768.

The older parish was named for the county.

The other parish in the county, Woodville Parish, was named for the Rev. John W. Woodville, of Culpeper.

Campbell County

Named for General William Campbell, who distinguished himself at the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780.

Lynchburg Parish was evidently named for the Town of Lynchburg.

Moore Parish was named for the Rt. Rev. Richard Channing Moore, second bishop of the Diocese of Virginia.

Franklin County

Named in honor of Dr. Benjamin Franklin, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The parish was named in honor of the county.

Henry County

Named for Patrick Henry, first Governor of Virginia after the adoption of the Constitution in 1776.

The parish was first named, in 1778, Patrick Parish; in 1894 the parish name was changed to Henry Parish so as not to confuse it with adjoining Patrick County.

Montgomery County

Named for General Richard Montgomery, who was in command of an expedition sent against Canada. He was killed on December 31, 1775 in an assault upon Quebec.

In addition to Montgomery Parish, there are St. Thomas' Parish, named in honor of the disciple by that name, and Radford Parish, named for the town in which it is located.

Nelson County

Named in honor of General Thomas Nelson, third Governor of Virginia and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Nelson Parish was named after the county.

Pulaski County

Named for Count Casimir Pulaski, the Polish count who distinguished himself as an officer in the Revolutionary Army and fell, mortally wounded, in an attack on Savannah, October 11, 1779.

The parish was named after the county.

Roanoke County

The Indian word roanoke means "Shell-money."

Salem Parish was named for the County Seat of Roanoke County.

Mt. Olivet, or Mount of Olives, has a biblical background.

Rockbridge County

Took its name from the celebrated Natural Bridge over Cedar Creek in the southern part of the county.

The original parish, Rockbridge Parish, was named for the county. Apparently the creation of Rockbridge Parish was overlooked, because Latimer Parish, named for Bishop Latimer, the martyr, was created, and later Natural Bridge Parish, named for the natural wonder in the county, was also created.

Smyth County

Named in honor of General Alexander Smyth, who was prominent in Southwestern Virginia political life, 1792-1830.

Preston Parish was named in honor of Colonel Thomas L. Preston, a zealous layman and lay reader of the church.

Tazewell County

Named in honor of Henry Tazewell, distinguished statesman and United States Senator from December 29, 1794 to January 24, 1799.

Washington County

Named for George Washington, soldier, statesman, and President of the United States.

Holston Parish was named for the Holston River, which divides the county.

Emmanuel Parish was named for the church in the City of Bristol. The city was originally known as Goodson; later the parish became known as Goodson Parish, but no council action to change the name has been found.

Wise County

Named for Henry A. Wise, Governor of Virginia, January 1, 1856-January 1, 1860.

The County of Wise is mountainous, and Intermont Parish was evidently named to identify it with the mountains.

Lloyd Parish was named for the Rev. John J. Lloyd, the first archdeacon in the mountains of Southwest Virginia.

Wythe County

Named for George Wythe, who was an eminent lawyer, patriot, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The parish was named for the county.

PARISH BOUNDARIES

Alleghany County

THE TWO PARISHES in this county are clearly established by metes and bounds and are well defined.

Amherst County

Both of the parishes in this county can be identified by metes and bounds. Lexington Parish, 1778, as originally established was the present county of Amherst. Later, in 1876, Amherst Parish was established by metes and bounds from Lexington Parish.

Augusta County

Augusta Parish, created in 1738, followed the county lines. Present Augusta Parish includes all of the present county of Augusta excepting therefrom Boyden Parish, 1837, which is described by physical markers which can be established.

Bath County

Bath Parish was never created by act of the General Assembly or by convention action. The assumption is that it included the entire county of Bath.

Bedford County

Russell Parish originally took in all of Bedford County. From it have been created four other parishes, namely West Russell, 1836; Hamner Parish, 1846; Heber Parish, 1847; and Lee Parish, 1873. No metes and bounds are given for West Russell Parish or for Hamner Parish, but metes and bounds are given for Heber Parish and Lee Parish.

Botetourt County

Botetourt Parish includes the present County of Botetourt, excepting therefrom Woodville Parish, 1840, and there are no boundary lines given for Woodville Parish.

Campbell County

Contains two parishes, Lynchburg Parish and Moore Parish. Neither of these parishes was established by legislative or convention action, hence no boundaries are given.

Franklin County

It is assumed that Franklin Parish covers the entire county of Franklin, but no boundary lines were mentioned when the parish was established.

Henry County

Patrick Parish was established in 1778 and included the present counties of Henry and Patrick. Later, Patrick County was formed, in 1791. In 1894 Patrick Parish, in Henry County, by council action was changed to Henry Parish and included only Henry County. Patrick Parish on the records still covers the present Patrick County.

Montgomery County

Montgomery County has three parishes: Montgomery, 1777; St. Thomas, 1898, and Radford, 1891. The latter two parishes are set forth by metes and bounds; so present Montgomery Parish includes all the rest of the present county of Montgomery.

Nelson County

Nelson Parish was not created by legislative or convention action. It is assumed that it includes all of the present county of Nelson.

Pulaski County

Pulaski Parish was created by convention action in 1878. It is assumed that it includes all of the present county of Pulaski excepting a small portion included in Radford Parish.

Roanoke County

This county includes two parishes: Salem Parish, 1852, included the entire County of Roanoke. In 1883, Mt. Olivet Parish was created by definite boundary lines, and that portion of Roanoke County is now excluded from Salem Parish.

Rockbridge County

There are two parishes in this county: Latimer, 1846, and Natural Bridge, 1897. In neither case were parish boundaries given.

Smyth County

There is one parish in the county, Preston Parish. The petition requesting admission as a parish states that it includes the entire county, although in the resolution admitting it to the Council it is stated the congregations at Marion, Chilhowie, and Saltville ask to be admitted as a new parish. The boundary lines between Preston Parish and Holston Parish (Washington County) are definitely located.

Tazewell County

Tazewell Parish is the only parish in the county, and it was definitely fixed to include all of Tazewell County.

Washington County

Washington Parish was established by legislative action in 1777, but the creation of the parish was evidently overlooked, because Holston, 1841, and Emmanuel, 1863, Parishes were created without any reference to Washington Parish. Neither of the parishes was defined by parish lines.

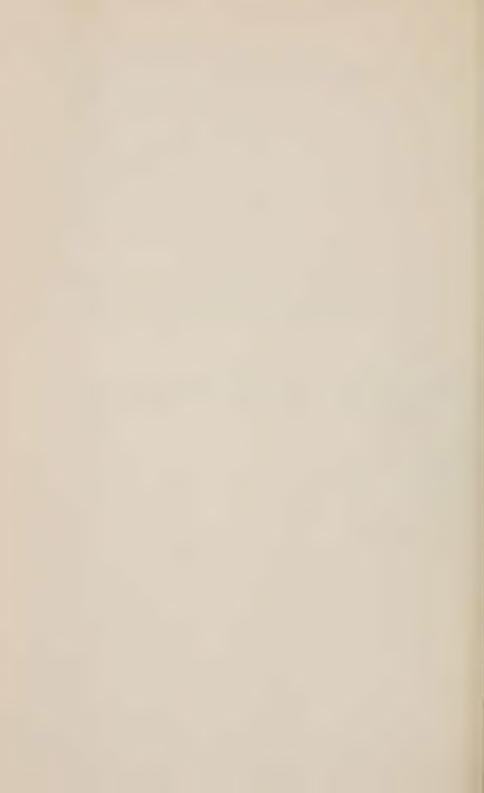
Wise County

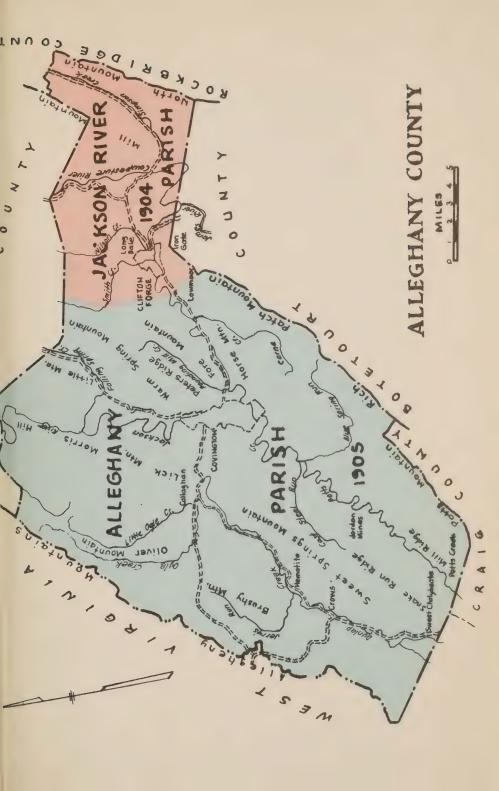
This county contains two parishes: Intermont, 1893, and Lloyd, 1922. Intermont Parish includes all of Wise County, excepting therefrom Gladeville, Roberson, and Lipps Magisterial Districts, which are defined as the boundaries of Lloyd Parish.

Wythe County

Wythe Parish was established in 1846. No metes and bounds were given, so we must assume that it included all of Wythe County.

Counties in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia Showing Location of Parishes and Churches







COUNTIES IN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA SHOWING LOCATION OF PARISHES AND CHURCHES

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

ALLEGHANY COUNTY was formed in 1822 from Bath, Botetourt, and Monroe (W. Va.).¹

Except in the case of Botetourt, no parish was created in the respective counties when each was formed. Since Alleghany was originally within the bounds of Augusta County, the same continued to be included within the bounds of Augusta Parish, even though those counties had been cut off from Augusta County.

A petition from Emmanuel Church, Covington, was presented to the Council in 1903, asking that a certain part of Alleghany County now included in the boundaries of Augusta Parish be set apart as a new, separate and independent parish to be known as Alleghany Parish; the following resolution was adopted:²

Resolved, that all that portion of Alleghany County, Virginia, which lies west of a line drawn from the Bath County line along the top of Little Middle Mountain, extending to McGraw's Gap, and thence a straight line crossing the C. & O. Railway one mile east of Low Moor furnace and extending to the Botetourt line, be divided from Augusta Parish, of which it now forms a part, and be constituted a new Parish, with all the rights and privileges of other parishes of this Diocese, said new parish to be known as Alleghany Parish.

The Journal of the Diocese recites that Emmanuel Church, Covington, was consecrated September 24, 1894.³

A petition from St. Andrews Church, Clifton Forge, was filed in 1904 requesting to be set apart from Augusta Parish in order

that they may form a new, separate and distinct parish to be known as Jackson River Parish, and to include all that part of Alleghany County not included in Alleghany Parish. All requirements having been met, the request was granted and the new parish, with the name and bounds set forth, was created.⁴

When Alleghany Parish and Jackson River Parish were created, the Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia recognized the fact that Alleghany County was still within the bounds of Augusta Parish.

Churches in Alleghany County:

Alleghany Parish: Emmanuel Church, Covington Jackson River Parish: St. Andrews Church, Clifton Forge.

NOTE: A map of Alleghany County is attached showing the bounds of Alleghany and Jackson River Parishes.

NOTES

¹ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 42.

- ² Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1903, 49-50.
- ³ *Ibid.*, 1895, 82.

4 Ibid., 1904, 34.

AMHERST COUNTY

AMHERST COUNTY was formed in 1761 from Albemarle County and "certain islands" in the Fluvanna [James] River.¹

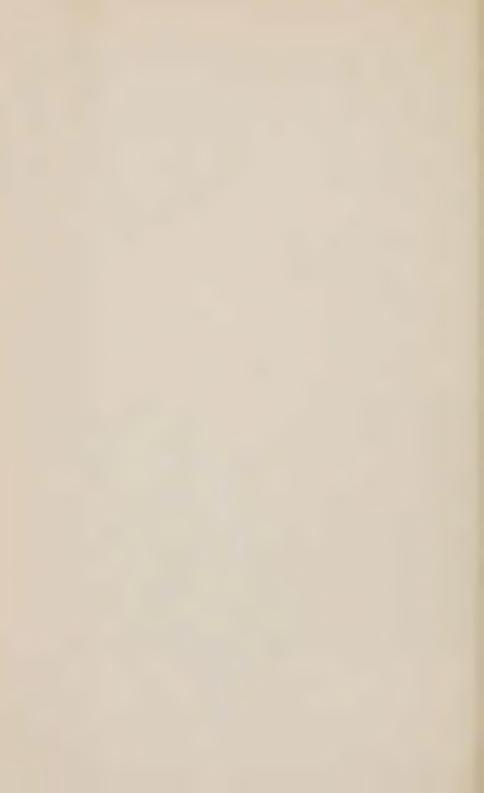
The Act dividing the Counties of Albemarle and Louisa and the Parish of St. Anne was dated March, 1761.²

Amherst Parish in said Act is described as follows:

That from and after the first day of May next the said parish (St. Anne) shall be divided into two distinct parishes, in the following manner, that is to say, by Rockfish river to the mouth of Green creek, thence a straight line by the house of Thomas Bell to the Blue mountains, and that all that part of said parish that lies above the said river and line shall be one distinct parish, and shall be called and known by the name of Amherst; and that all that other part of said parish that lies below the said river and line shall be one distinct parish and retain the name of St. Anne.

In October, 1778 the parish of Amherst was divided by a line running from Fluvanna [James] River up Piney River to





the mountains; the part on the lower side to be known as Amherst Parish and on the upper side, Lexington Parish.³

That the parish of Amherst shall be divided into two distinct parishes, in the following manner, that is to say:

By a line to be run from Meggenson's Warehouse, on the Fluvanna river, to Rose's Mill on Piney river, thence up the fork thereof above Lucas Powell's plantation, and thence up the north fork to the Blue Ridge, and all that part of the said parish which lies on the lower side of the said line shall be one distinct parish and retain the name of Amherst, and all that part of the said parish which lies on the upper side of the said line shall be one other distinct parish and be called and known by the name of Lexington.

In October, 1780, the dividing line between Amherst and Lexington parishes was relocated to make a more equitable division.⁴

Be it therefore enacted, That instead of the dividing line mentioned in said Act, the said parishes shall be divided by the following lines, to-wit:

Beginning on the Fluvana river at the mouth of Elk Island Creek, with said creek to Hilton's mill, from thence a direct line to Tye river at the mouth of Camp Creek; thence up Tye river to the mouth of Piney river, thence up Piney river to Rose's mill; thence continued up Piney river to the fork thereof above Lucas Powell's plantation and thence up the north fork to the Blue Ridge.

The collector of the parish of Lexington shall have the power to collect and distrain for any dues which shall remain unpaid by the inhabitants of that part of the said parish of Lexington hereby made a part of the said parish of Amherst.

The following recommendation from the committee on admission of new parishes was approved:⁵

3. From Amherst County a petition to be divided from Lexington Parish, of which it now forms a part, and to be formed into a separate parish, taking the name of Amherst Parish with the following boundaries, to-wit:

Those boundaries known as belonging to Pedlar township, and all that part of Elon township that lies to the west of the Virginia Midland railroad; or in other words, the northern boundary of the Elon section of the parish will be the Lynchburg road from Ware's Gap across to Cool Well; the eastern boundary the Virginia Midland railroad; the southern boundary the James river, and the western boundary the Tobacco Row mountains to Ware's Gap.

The boundaries of Pedlar will be the Blue Ridge Mountains on the west, the James river on the south; the Tobacco Row mountains on the east; and the road from Amherst Courthouse to Lexington on the north.

An excerpt from 2 Meade 57 clears up apparent confusion about Amherst Parish:

In 1761, Amherst County and Amherst parish were separated from Albemarle County and St. Anne's parish. In the year 1778, Amherst parish was divided and Lexington parish established. In the year 1780, the boundary line was changed so as somewhat to reduce Lexington parish. The line, as settled in 1780, we presume, is the same, or nearly the same, which now separates Nelson and Amherst. Amherst Parish was left in that part which is now Nelson County.

It seems highly appropriate that once again Amherst Parish is revived within the boundaries of Amherst County. It should also be noted that the name was given to a portion of the original area of Amherst Parish created in 1761. This was accomplished when Amherst Parish was created from Lexington Parish in 1876.

The following churches are included in the two parishes:

Amherst Parish: St. Luke's Church, Pedlar Mills

Lexington Parish: St. Mark's Church, Clifford; Ascension Church, Amherst; St. Paul's Mission, Amherst, RFD No. 2; Emmanuel Church, Madison Heights

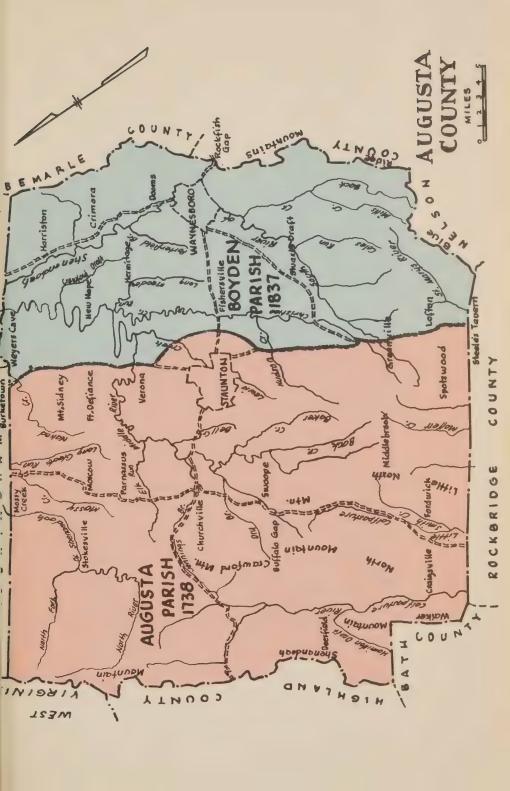
Bishop John Johns reports that on October 7, 1848 he consecrated Ascension Church at Amherst Court House and baptized an infant and preached.⁶

NOTE: A map of Amherst County is attached showing the bounds of Lexington and Amherst Parishes.

It will be noted that Emmanuel Church, Madison Heights, is in Lexington Parish, and not Amherst Parish. This error first appears in the Diocese of Southern Virginia 1912, p. 140. Emmanuel Church has consistently reported that it was in Amherst Parish.

NOTES

- ¹ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 43.
- ² 7 Hening, 419.
- ³ 9 Hening, 567.
- 4 10 Hening, 369.
- ⁵ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1876, 76.
- 6 Ibid., 1849, 15.





AUGUSTA COUNTY

Augusta County was formed from Orange County by an Act dated November, 1738. The county was not financially able to function, and it was not until 1745 that Augusta had sufficient tithables to begin to hold court and set up her county organization. The Act creating the county and the parish was enacted in November, 1738. By this Act Augusta Parish was created to include all of Augusta County.

The county and parish thus created included the major portions of Southwestern Virginia and of the present Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. Within its boundaries were created twenty-four counties within said diocese, and from the parish stemmed seven parishes.

Within the present boundary of Augusta County, Boyden Parish was formed:²

A petition from the wardens and vestry of a chapel near Staunton, to dissolve connection with Trinity Church, Staunton, and to frame a new parish to be called Boyden Parish—as follows:

To be composed of all that part of Augusta County lying and being South and East of the stage road, from Winchester to Lexington by way of....., except so much thereof as may be within three miles of the Town of Staunton.

The petition was referred to a special committee which reported favorably and in which report the convention concurred.

Subsequently, in 1903, Alleghany Parish, and in 1904 Jackson River Parish, were carved from Augusta Parish.

A petition was filed at the Council of 1893, Diocese of Southern Virginia, asking that a portion of the congregation of Trinity Church, Augusta Parish, be allowed to become a separate congregation, with the right of representation in the Council of this Diocese.³ The Committee on New Parishes unanimously recommended that the prayer of the petition be granted, as in its opinion the conditions of the canons governing such cases had been complied with.

By this action of Council, Emmanuel Church, Staunton, was created a separate congregation in Augusta Parish. Emmanuel Church was consecrated September 24, 1899.⁴

Five counties were cut off from Augusta County, three of them in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia: Botetourt in 1770, Rockbridge in 1778, and Bath in 1791. In Botetourt and Rockbridge, parishes were created by the Act, but no parish was created in Bath.

Churches in Augusta County:

Augusta Parish: Trinity Church, Staunton; Emmanuel Church, Staunton; Emmanuel Chapel, Verona; Good Shepherd Church, Folly Mills

Boyden Parish: St. John's Church, Waynesboro

Note: A map of Augusta County showing the bounds of Augusta and Boyden Parishes is attached.

NOTES

¹ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 43.

² Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1837, 5.

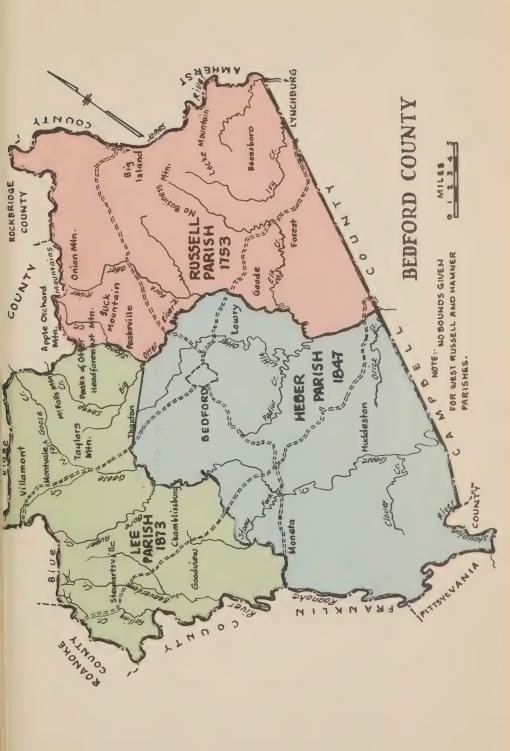
³ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1893, 42.

4 Ibid., 1900, 69.

BATH COUNTY

BATH COUNTY was formed in 1791 from Augusta, Botetourt, and Greenbrier (W. Va.).¹

As in the case of Alleghany County, no parish was created when the county was formed, hence Augusta Parish included Bath County. No record of the creation of Bath Parish was found. The assumption evidently was that when the county was formed, although there was no Episcopal Church in the county, the parish was formed. This was the case in Nelson Parish, and as a result it has been accepted and fixed by custom that such was the case. In contradiction of this reasoning, when Alleghany and Jackson River Parishes were created, Augusta Parish was recognized as the mother parish, and not Bath Parish from which Alleghany County had been carved.





St. Luke's Church was consecrated October 14, 1899.²

Bath Parish: Christ Church, Warm Springs; St. Luke's Church, Hot Springs.

NOTES

¹ 13 Hening, 165.

² Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1900, 69.

BEDFORD COUNTY

Bedford County was formed in 1754 from Lunenburg County in November, 1753. Later in the same year additional territory was added from Albemarle and Lunenburg Counties.² Russell Parish included all of Bedford County and is described as follows:

And whereas by reason of the great length of the parish of Cumberland, in the County of Lunenburg, the inhabitants of that parish do lie under divers inconveniences. Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the tenth day of May, which shall be 1756, the said parish of Cumberland shall be divided into two distinct parishes and all that part of the said parish, that shall be in the County of Bedford, shall be one distinct parish and thereafter called and known by the name of Russel.

From Russell Parish seven additional parishes were formed. Bedford County as it now exists has five parishes. Moore Parish and Campbell Parish were taken from Russell Parish.

1. Diocese of Virginia Journal 1836:3

The parish of West Russel was established by the following resolution:

Resolved that on examination it appearing that the vestry of West Russel Parish, in the County of Bedford, have complied with the requirements of the 12th Article of the Constitution,

Resolved that the Parish of West Russel, in Bedford County, be admitted into connection with this Convention, and that William B. Whitten be admitted to his seat in this Convention as the delegate from said Parish.

Page 32 of said Journal, Parochial Reports, states that the parish was recently organized, being formed out of the western part of Bedford County. Subscription has been circulated for erection of new church. No metes and bounds are given for the new parish. The Journal of 1837 lists Russell and West Russel Parishes.

2. Diocese of Virginia Journal 1846:4

Committee on new parishes reports applications for new parishes.

St. Stephen's Church, Bedford, for division of Russel Parish, Bedford, and application was granted. No metes and bounds given, nor name of the new parish. In the list of parishes in the diocese set forth in the Journal of 1847, the name of Hamner Parish appears for the first time, hence it is inferred that the new parish name was Hamner Parish.

3. Diocese of Virginia Journal 1847:5

Heber Parish in Bedford County was established by the following resolution:

The committee on the admission of new parishes beg leave to report: That the petition of Heber Parish, Bedford County, is reasonable, with the exception only of the precise metes and bounds marked off for the parish, and they recommend that the convenience of families, in Liberty (Bedford) and its vicinity, be consulted more than any artificial or local boundaries, in the formation of the congregation and parish. And if it be not beyond the power of the committee, they beg leave to call attention of this Convention to the subject of the metes and bounds of parishes, in order, as far as possible, to remove all occasions of disagreement from these causes, among neighboring churches and parishes.

The report was adopted.

4. Diocese of Virginia Journal 1872:6

A petition was filed to fix the metes and bounds of Heber Parish; petition states Bedford County originally consisted of one parish, Russel Parish. Afterwards a new parish was formed out of Rus-

sel Parish on the north side of said county, called Hamner Parish, which parish was subsequently divided and designated as West Russell. The important action of the Convention was to fix the boundaries of Heber Parish as follows:

Beginning at a point on Big Otter River where the line between the Counties of Campbell and Bedford crosses said river; thence up the said river to Kelso's Mills; thence with the turnpike road to Botetourt County line; thence around with the line of Bedford County to the Staunton River; thence down Staunton River to the Campbell County line, and thence with the last named line to the Beginning. — So that all that part of Bedford County lying south and west of the line first named and of Campbell County line, shall be embraced in and be subject to the jurisdiction of Heber Parish.

Petition for formation of Lee Parish out of Heber Parish was withdrawn.

5. Diocese of Virginia Journal 1873:7

Committee on New Parishes recommends that petition for the formation of Lee Parish out of Heber Parish, Bedford County, be granted.

The metes and bounds of Lee Parish:

Beginning at Kelso Mills; thence a straight line to James W. Williams; thence with the road from James W. Williams to Goose Creek at Henry Taylor's old place; thence down Goose Creek to Dickenson Mill road, leading from Liberty to Emmaus; thence along the last named road to Emmaus, and from Emmaus along the Dickenson Mill road to where the last named road intersects the Rocky Mount turnpike road; thence with said turnpike to Staunton River; thence with Staunton River to the county line between Roanoke and Bedford Counties; thence with said county line between Bedford, Roanoke and Botetourt to the intersection of said county line with road from Kelso's Mills; and thence with said road to Kelso's Mills the beginning.

6. DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA JOURNAL 1875:8

On July 21, 1874, Bishop Johns consecrated St. Mark's Church, Montvale.

7. Diocese of Southern Virginia Journal 1910:9

On November 16, 1909, Bishop Randolph consecrated the new church, St. Mark's, Montvale.

Churches in Bedford County are as follows:

Hamner Parish: St. Stephen's Church, Forest.

Heber Parish: St. John's Church, Bedford; St. Philip's Church, Bedford.

Lee Parish: St. Mark's Church, Montvale. Russell Parish: Trinity Church, Boonsboro.

West Russell Parish: St. Thomas's Church, Sedalia.

Note: Map of the parishes in Bedford County is attached; since the boundaries of West Russell and Hamner Parishes were not given, the map does not show them.

NOTES

- ¹ 6 Hening, 381.
- ² Ibid., 441.
- ³ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1836, 13.
- 4 Ibid., 1846, 62.
- ⁵ Ibid., 1847, 32.
- 6 Ibid., 1872, 56.
- 7 Ibid., 1873, 72.
- 8 Ibid., 1875, 24.
- ⁹ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1910, 70.

BOTETOURT COUNTY

BOTETOURT COUNTY was formed in 1770 from Augusta County.¹ The Act creating Botetourt County likewise created Botetourt Parish, which was coterminous with the county. To give some idea of the extent of the boundaries of the county, the following paragraph from the Act is interesting:²

And whereas the people situated on the waters of the Mississippi, in the said County of Botetourt, will be very remote from their courthouse and must necessarily become a separate county as soon as their numbers are sufficient, which will probably happen in a short time. Be it further enacted, by the aforesaid,

That the inhabitants of that part of said County of Botetourt which lies on said waters, shall be exempted from the payment of levies, to be laid by the said County Court for the purpose of building a courthouse and prison for the said County.

Until 1772, Botetourt County and Botetourt Parish included all of Southwest Virginia west of Botetourt County. In 1772 Botetourt County was divided into two counties.^{2A} The County of Fincastle was carved from Botetourt, and within its boundaries lay all of Southwest Virginia except the present counties of Botetourt, Roanoke, and Craig. No parish was created when Fincastle County was formed.

An Act for dividing the County of Botetourt into two distinct counties:

That from and after the first day of December next, the said County of Botetourt shall be divided into two distinct counties, that is to say, all that part of the said county within a line, to run up the east side of New river to the mouth of Culberson's creek, thence a direct line to the Catawba road where it crosses the dividing ridge, between the north fork of Roanoke and the waters of New river, thence with the top of the ridge to the bend where it turns eastwardly, thence a south course crossing Little River to the top of the Blue Ridge mountains, shall be established as one distinct county and called and known by the *name of Fincastle* and all that other part thereof which lies to the east and north of the said line shall be one other county and retain the name of Botetourt.

Fincastle County had a short existence. By an Act dated October 1776³ it was entirely divided into three counties, namely Washington, Montgomery, and Kentucky. By the same Act the parishes of Washington, Montgomery, and Kentucky were created. Since no parish was established when Fincastle County was formed, the parishes of Montgomery, Washington, and Kentucky recognized Botetourt Parish as the mother parish.

From Botetourt County were subsequently created Greenbrier 1778, Roanoke 1835, and Craig 1851.

In the Diocese of Virginia Journal 1840⁴ appears the petition of Woodville Parish requesting admission into union with the Diocese of Virginia. The petition was granted, but no boundaries or description of the new parish was given. It included a small portion of Rockbridge County. At this same Convention, Journal, page 12, records the fact that the church (no name given) at Fincastle was consecrated November 21, 1840.

Bishop Meade reports, September, 1846:5

The next service was at Buchanan, where two days were spent, a new church consecrated, and three persons confirmed. Two days were spent at Fincastle and as many at the Brick Church in Roanoke. At the former, two persons were confirmed.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1852:6 Roanoke County was separated from Botetourt Parish to form a new parish to be known as Salem Parish; its boundaries to be the limits of Roanoke County.

In the Diocese of Virginia Journal 1886,7 it is recorded that Emmanuel Church at Eagle Rock was consecrated on September 8, 1885.

Churches in Botetourt County:

Botetourt Parish: St. Mark's Church, Fincastle; Emmanuel Church, Eagle Rock

Woodville Parish: Trinity Church, Buchanan; Grace Church, Purgatory Mountain

NOTES

CAMPBELL COUNTY

CAMPBELL County was formed from Bedford County in 1782.¹

The Act for dividing the County of Bedford did not create a parish. The Diocese of Virginia Journal 1825² refers to Lynchburg Parish and to the fact that the minister began his labors in September, 1824. Services were held in the Masonic Hall. The building of a brick church had been commenced. In the Convention of 1824 the Rev. Amos C. Treadway, of Lynchburg

¹ 8 Hening, 395.

² Ibid, 398.

²A Ibid., 600.

^{3 9} Ibid., 257.

⁴ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1840, 8.

⁵ Ibid. 1847, 10.

⁶ Ibid. 1852, 33.

⁷ Ibid. 1886, 43.

Parish, appeared and took his seat. Seth Ward, a layman of said parish, likewise took his seat.

The 1826 Convention of the Diocese of Virginia met in Lynchburg.³ The church was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Richard Channing Moore. No name of church was given; evidently it was St. Paul's. The Convention was the first service held in the church.

No record was found showing the establishment of Moore Parish. The Diocese of Virginia Journal 1829 recites Moore Parish represented by the Rev. Nahum G. Osgood.⁴

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1852:⁵ Bishop Johns reported consecration of St. Paul's Church, Lynchburg, on November 3, 1851.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1859:6 also, in behalf of the application of certain members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Lynchburg to form a new parish, with the privilege of changing the name of said parish. Report of committee accepted.

No name, no metes and bounds, no details. No new parish filed report in Journal of next Convention.

Bishop Whittle, on September 2, 1875, consecrated the Church of the Good Shepherd, Campbell County, preached, and confirmed four.⁷

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1883: The Committee on New Parishes recommended that the application of Epiphany Church, Lynchburg, to be set apart as a separate and independent church, be granted.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1884:9 Christ Church, Lynchburg, consecrated.

Diocese of Southern Virginia Journal 1911:¹⁰ Petition signed by members of the church in Lynchburg Parish to form a separate congregation in that part of the City of Lynchburg known as Rivermont was granted. This became St. John's Church.

Lynchburg Parish: St. Paul's Church, Lynchburg; St. John's Church, Lynchburg; Grace Memorial Church, Lynchburg; Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Lynchburg.

Moore Parish: St. Peter's Church, Altavista; Church of the Good Shepherd, Evington; Christ Church, Brookneal.

NOTES

¹ 10 Hening, 447.

² Hawks, History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia, 183.

³ Ibid., 186.

- 4 Ibid., 224.
- ⁵ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1852, 21.

6 Ibid., 1859, 43.

- 7 Ibid. 1876, 40.
- 8 Ibid. 1883, 62.
- 9 Ibid. 1884, 31.
- ¹⁰ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1911, 51.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin County was formed from Bedford and Henry in 1786. In the Act for forming a new county out of the counties of Bedford and Henry, no mention is made for the establishment of a new parish.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1842² recites that the application of Trinity Church, Franklin Parish, Franklin County, conflicts with no provision of Canons referring to the formation of parishes:

RESOLVED that this Convention receive this parish into connection with this Diocese.

No boundaries given. From the Journal it is not clear whether or not it was intended to set up a new parish or a separate congregation. It has been assumed it was intended to form a new parish coterminous with Franklin County.

Churches in Franklin County:

Franklin Parish: Trinity Church, Rocky Mount; St. John's in the Mountains, Ferrum; St. Peter's in the Mountains, Callaway

NOTES

¹ 12 Hening, 70.

² Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1842, 14.

HENRY COUNTY

HENRY COUNTY was formed in 1777 from Pittsylvania County.¹ The Act for dividing the parishes of Camden and Amherst, October, 1778,² provides:

That from and after the first day of February next ensuing the said parish of Camden shall be divided into two distinct parishes by the line which divides the said counties of Pittsylvania and Henry, and all that part of the said parish which lies in the county of Pittsylvania shall be one distinct parish and retain the name of Camden, and that all the other part thereof shall be one other distinct parish and be called and known by the name of Patrick.

The Act also divides Amherst into Lexington and Amherst parishes.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1848: Bishop Meade states that he spent two days in Henry County, where he consecrated a church; name of church not given.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1888:⁴ Application to change the name of Patrick Parish was not granted. Diocese of Southern Virginia Journal 1894:⁵ Vestry of Christ Church, Patrick Parish, Henry County, request name of parish be changed from Patrick Parish to Henry Parish. The request was granted.

Churches in Henry County:

Henry Parish: Christ Church, Martinsville; St. Paul's Church, Martinsville

NOTES

¹ 9 Hening, 241.

² Ibid., 567.

³ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1848, 11.

⁴ Ibid. 1888, 80.

⁵ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1894, 43-44.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County was formed in 1777 from Fincastle County. This Act dividing the County of Fincastle into three distinct counties, Montgomery, Washington, and Kentucky, and the parish of Botetourt into four distinct parishes, was enacted in October, 1776.

The division of Botetourt Parish into four parishes is as follows:

That from and after the last day of December next the said parish shall be divided into four distinct parishes, that is to say: All that part of the said parish which lies in the County of Montgomery shall be one distinct parish and be called and known by the name of Montgomery; all that other part of the parish which lies in the said county of Washington shall be one other distinct parish and be called and known by the name of Washington. All that other part of said parish which lies in the county of Kentucky shall be one other distinct parish and be called and known by the name of Kentucky; and all that other part of said parish which lies in the county of Botetourt shall be one other distinct parish and shall retain the name of Botetourt parish.

The following parishes have been formed from the original Montgomery Parish:

Wythe Parish, 1790 Pulaski Parish, 1878 Radford Parish, 1891 St. Thomas Parish, 1898

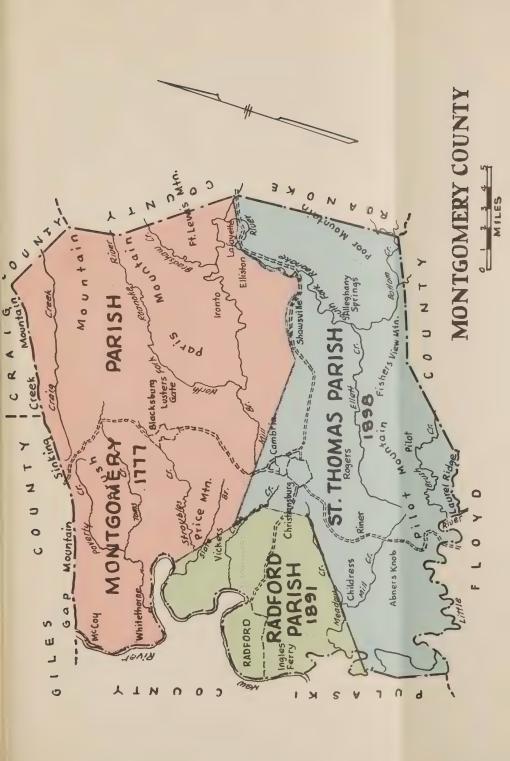
Wythe and Pulaski Parishes will be treated under the respective counties of Wythe and Pulaski. Since Radford and St. Thomas' Parishes are within the present boundaries of Montgomery County, they will be referred to under this heading.

The Diocese of Virginia Journal 1859² contains, in the report of the Committee on New Parishes, the following: "... and the application of friends of the P. E. Church in Montgomery County to organize a new parish." The report was adopted, but contains no details concerning the new parish.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1891³ contains the resolution setting up Radford Parish from Montgomery Parish.

The report of the Committee, which was adopted, states:

We are of the opinion that the interests of the church in Montgomery Parish demand a division of the Parish. We unanimously recommend that this Council constitute that part of Montgomery Parish and that part of Pulaski County embraced within the lines hereinafter mentioned, a new parish to be known as Radford Parish.





Metes and bounds of Radford Parish:

Beginning at Morgan's Cut on the Norfolk & Western R. R. in Pulaski County, thence due north to the Giles County line; thence with said county line to New River, thence up New River to the mouth of Wall's Creek, thence in a straight line to Chrisman's Mill on the Norfolk & Western R. R. in Montgomery County; thence to Bean's Shop on the old Christiansburg turnpike; thence to a point on Little River opposite the village of Snowville; thence down Little River, thence up New River to a point, due south from Morgan's Cut, thence due north to the Beginning.

Diocese of Southern Virginia Journal 1898⁴ authorizes the creation of St. Thomas' Parish from Montgomery Parish:

Upon application of a petition from the congregation & vestry of St. Thomas' Church, Christiansburg, Montgomery Parish, to be separated from Christ Church, Blacksburg, in the same parish with separate and distinct jurisdiction, in which Christ Church, Blacksburg, concurs.

RESOLVED that the portion of Montgomery Parish bounded on the north by a line beginning at Vickers Switch on the Norfolk & Western R. R., thence in a straight line to Big Tunnel on said railroad, thence following the railroad and the eastern end of the Parish, be and is newly declared to be a separate parish, to be known by the name of St. Thomas' Parish.

Diocese of Southern Virginia Journal 1900,⁵ records a petition from West Ward of City of Radford; it was recommended that the petition be granted of the members of Radford Parish, living in West Ward of the City of Radford and contiguous thereto, and attendants of Grace Chapel in said Ward, "which petition was this day presented, be granted and that the applicants be constituted a separate congregation (with right of representation in Council) and subject to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese." Action on the committee's report was postponed.

Diocese of Southern Virginia Journal 1914⁶ reports St. James Church dormant.

Churches in Montgomery County:

Montgomery Parish: Christ Church, Blacksburg.

St. Thomas' Parish: St. Thomas' Church, Christiansburg.

Radford Parish: Grace Church, Radford, partially in Montgomery and Pulaski Counties.

Note: Map attached shows the three parishes in Montgomery County.

NOTES

¹ 9 Hening, 257.

² Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1859, 43.

3 Ibid. 1891, 74.

⁴ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1898, 40.

⁵ *Ibid.* 1900, 37. ⁶ *Ibid.* 1914, 236.

NELSON COUNTY

Nelson County was formed from Amherst County in 1808.¹ The part of Amherst County which was to form Nelson County was known as Amherst Parish. Apparently this was overlooked, and soon Nelson Parish appears on the records without Council authority. The following excerpt from "Henrico Parish in the Diocese of Virginia and the Parishes Descended Therefrom" bears this out:²

NELSON PARISH, 1808 (Nelson County)

(iv) In spite of the mention of Nelson parish in Nelson county as early as 1830 in Hawks, Appendix, 248* and almost continuously in the Journal (parochial reports) of the Diocese of Virginia, 1836-1892; of Southern Virginia, 1893-1919; and of Southwestern Virginia, 1919-1934; it has been impossible to find any action, either legislative or canonical, forming a Nelson parish in Nelson county, or elsewhere. Hence, it is concluded that it was generally, but erroneously, supposed that the then-recent custom continued and that in 1808 there was formed a "county and parish" of Nelson; and, as a result, it has become accepted and fixed by custom that such was the case.

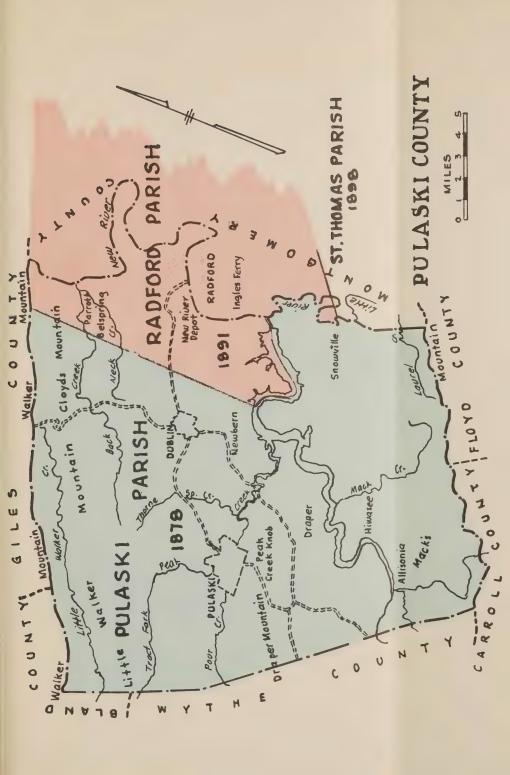
Churches in Nelson County:

Nelson Parish: Trinity Church, Arrington; Grace Church, Massie's Mills; Christ Church, Norwood; Christ Church, Schuyler

NOTES

¹ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 62.

² Robinson, Henrico Parish in the Diocese of Virginia and the Parishes Descended Therefrom, 24.





PULASKI COUNTY

PULASKI COUNTY was formed from Montgomery and Wythe Counties in 1839.¹

Bishop Francis M. Whittle reports that on August 17, 1884, St. John's Church, New River, Pulaski County, was consecrated.² At the same Council, May, 1885 (Journal, p. 72), the following resolution was adopted:

The Committee on New Parishes respectfully reports that they have had under consideration a petition from St. John's Church, Pulaski County, asking for the establishment of a new parish to be composed mainly of the western portion of West Augusta Parish and a small part of Montgomery Parish. The petition states that there is no vestry in the first named Parish to be consulted; but there is no evidence that the vestry of Montgomery Parish has consented to the proposed division, and the committee cannot recommend that the petition be granted.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1888,³ shows parochial reports from:

Macgill Memorial Church, Pulaski Parish; Emmanuel Church, Pulaski Parish

Church in Pulaski County: Christ Church, Pulaski

Note: A map is attached showing the parishes in Pulaski County. A brief sketch of the Episcopal Church at Pulaski was published in 1928. It was prepared by the Rev. J. F. Coleman.

NOTES

¹ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 65.

² Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1885, 34.

³ Ibid., 1888, 223.

ROANOKE COUNTY

ROANOKE COUNTY was formed from Botetourt in 1838.1

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1850: Bishop Meade reports: "At the Licks, in Roanoke County, two confirmed. At this place a new church was consecrated."

This was St. John's Church located in the Town of Gainsboro. By deed dated September 30, 1853,^{2A} Jeremiah K. Pitzer

conveyed to Edward Watts, Wm. M. Peyton, George P. Tayloe and Samuel P. Holt, Trustees, lot 54 in Town of Gainsboro, being the lot on which an Episcopal Church has been built. Prior to that date the Trustees had acquired from John W. Thompson, October 22, 1847,^{2B} lot 22 in Town of Gainsboro. This lot was conveyed to Pitzer at the time of his conveyance to the Trustees of lot 54.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1852:³ Application from members and friends of the Church in Roanoke County praying to be separated from Botetourt Parish and to be constituted a new parish under the style of Salem Parish, with the boundaries of said Roanoke County as its limits. The Committee on New Parishes recommended the granting of the application. The report was adopted and the parish first named was admitted under the style of Salem Parish.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1879: A petition was filed asking that Salem Parish be divided. The petition was not granted.

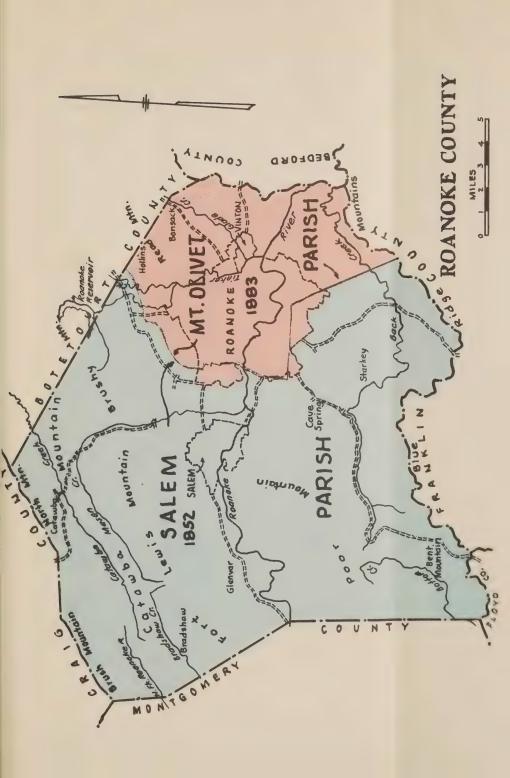
Diocese of Virginia Journal 1883:⁵ Petition asking that Salem Parish be divided and Mount Olivet Parish established.

Metes and bounds of Mount Olivet Parish, Roanoke County, are, to-wit:

So much of the County of Roanoke as is included in the magisterial district of Big Lick, excepting so much of said district as is included between the macadamized road and an imaginary line parallel with said road and half a mile south of the same.

Petition granted.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1893:⁶ A petition from certain members of Mount Olivet Parish, Roanoke, asking to be set apart and constituted a separate and independent church of said parish under the name of Christ Church. The requirements of the canon have been complied with. The congregation is represented as being able to build a house of worship and support a minister. It was recommended that the prayer of the petition be granted. The petition was granted.





Diocese of Southern Virginia Journal 1916:7 St. Peter's Church, Mt. Olivet Parish, in the City of Roanoke, became a separate congregation. This church became dormant and subsequently its church lot and building were sold.

Churches in Roanoke County:

Salem Parish: St. Paul's Church, Salem

Mt. Olivet Parish: St. John's Church, Roanoke; Christ Church, Roanoke; St. James' Church, Roanoke; St. Luke's Church, Roanoke; St. Elizabeth's Church, Roanoke

Note: Map attached shows Salem and Mt. Olivet Parishes in Roanoke County.

NOTES

¹ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 67.

² Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1850, 20.

^{2A} Clerk's Office, Circuit Court, Roanoke County, D.B.E., p. 23.

^{2B} *Ibid.*, D. B. O, p. 296.

³ Diocese of Virginia, Journal, 1852, 33.

4 Ibid., 1879, 96.

⁵ Ibid., 1883, 62.

6 Ibid., 1892, 83.
7 Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1916, 56.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY was formed from Augusta County in 1778.1 The same Act which created Rockbridge County also established Rockbridge Parish, as follows:

And all those parts of the said counties and parishes of Augusta and Botetourt included within said lines shall be one distinct county and parish and shall be called and known by the name of Rockbridge; and all the remaining parts of the said counties and parishes of Augusta and Botetourt shall each of them respectively be a distinct county and parish and retain their respective names.

When Latimer Parish was established by resolution of Convention Diocese of Virginia in 1846, apparently Rockbridge Parish was overlooked, or perhaps unknown. No metes and bounds of Latimer Parish were given. Latimer Parish, in Rockbridge County, was cut off from Woodville Parish, which included parts of Botetourt and Rockbridge Counties.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1845:² Wm. Bryant, rector at Buchanan, reports that he has discontinued holding services in Lexington.

The error was repeated when Natural Bridge Parish was established by resolution of Diocese of Southern Virginia 1897.³ Here again no metes and bounds were set forth and it is impossible to tell whether any part of Rockbridge Parish remains or whether Latimer and Natural Bridge Parishes were intended to include all of Rockbridge County. Resolution stated the metes and bounds were filed with the petition. These papers have not been found.

Churches in Rockbridge County:

Latimer Parish: R. E. Lee Memorial Church, Lexington. Natural Bridge Parish: Christ Church, Buena Vista; St. John's Church, Glasgow.

Note: A Short History of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Lexington, Virginia, by Judge Martin P. Burks, Dr. E. Pendleton Tompkins, and Professor John D. Letcher was published in 1930.

NOTES

¹ 9 Hening, 420.

² Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1845, 53.

³ Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1897, 43.

SMYTH COUNTY

SMYTH COUNTY was formed from Washington County in 1832.1

Diocese of Southern Virginia Journal 1906² states that the congregations in Smyth County, at Marion, Saltville, and Chilhowie, have complied with the canons governing such petitions and that they are admitted and set apart as a new parish, to be known as Preston Parish. No metes and bounds were given.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1864:³ July 7, 1863, Bishop Johns reports that "At Marion, where Rev. Mr. Rodefer officiates, I preached and confirmed three, being the first Episcopal

service performed there. We have no church in the village and were indebted to the Christian courtesy of another denomination for the loan of their house of worship."

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1875: Bishop Johns' report states, "I consecrated Christ Church, Marion, preached and confirmed three. The church site cost \$462.00 and the brick church cost about \$3,000.00."

See Washington County, page 177, for an agreement on the boundary line between Preston Parish and Holston Parish.

Churches in Smyth County:

Preston Parish: Christ Church, Marion; St. Paul's Church, Saltville; Journal 1900, p. 70, consecrated May 14, 1900.

NOTES

¹ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 68.

² Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1906, 69.

³ Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1864, 16.

TAZEWELL COUNTY

TAZEWELL COUNTY was formed from Wythe County in 1800.1

Diocese of Southern Virginia Journal 1893² recites that the Council constitutes the County of Tazewell into a new parish to be coterminous with the boundaries of the County of Tazewell.

Bishop Randolph reported to the Council 1889 that he had consecrated Stras Memorial Church.

Bishop Randolph reported to the Council 1888 that on September 27, 1887 he had consecrated Christ Church, Pocahontas. Cost of building about \$3,000.00, contributed by the people. Mr. C. Clarke, of Philadelphia, built, at a cost of \$2,600.00, a neat parish school building and presented it to the church.

Churches in Tazewell County:

Tazewell Parish: Stras Memorial Church, Tazewell; St. Mary's Church, Bluefield; Christ Church, Pocahontas; Trinity Church, Richlands

NOTES

¹ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 69.

² Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1893, 42.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

WASHINGTON COUNTY was formed from Fincastle County in 1777. The Act provided:¹

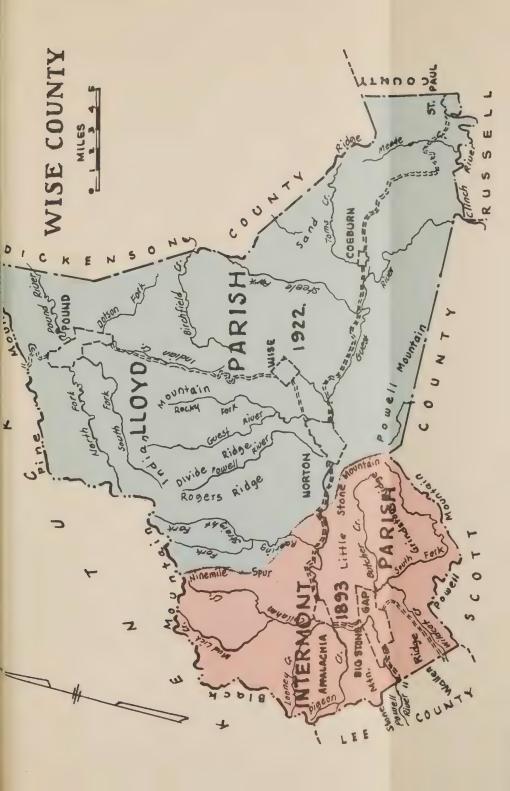
That from and after the last day of December next ensuing the County of Fincastle shall be divided into three counties—that is to say: All that part of the said county of Fincastle included in the lines beginning at the Cumberland Mountains where the line of Kentucky County intersects the North Carolina line, thence east along the Carolina line to the top of Iron Mountain, thence along the same easterly to the source of the South fork of the Holston river, thence northwardly along the highest part of the high lands, ridges and mountains that divide the waters of the Tennessee from those of the Great Kanawha, to the most easterly source of the Clinch River, thence westerly along the top of the mountains that divide the waters of the Clinch River from those of the Great Kanawha and Sandy Creek to the line of Kentucky County, thence along the same to the beginning, shall be one other distinct county and called and known by the name of Washington.

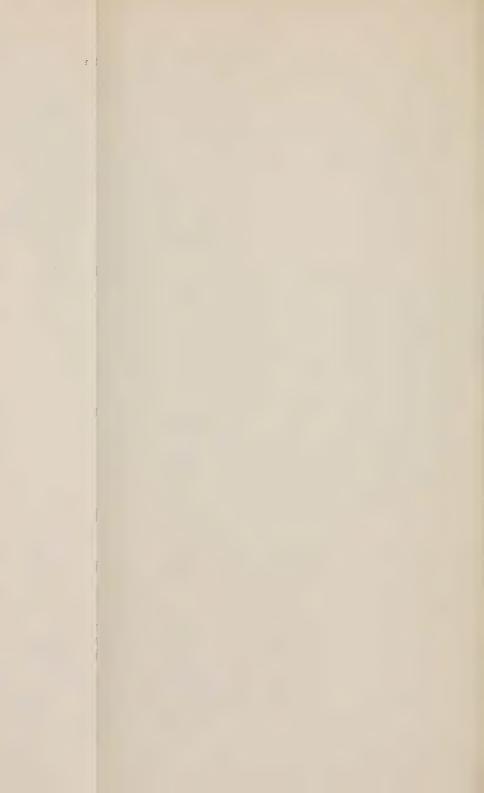
That on and after the last day of December next the said parish shall be divided into four distinct parishes, that is to say . . . all that other part of the parish which lies in the said County of Washington shall be one distinct parish and be called and known by the name of Washington. . . .

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1841:² The application of Holston Parish, Washington County, being in a part of the state in which no Episcopal Church had ever been established, was granted to said parish to be admitted with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia. No metes and bounds of the parish are given. The Council ignored or overlooked the fact that when Washington County was established, Washington Parish was by the same Act created.

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1863³ recites the application of the Wardens and Vestry of Emmanuel Parish, Washington County, for admission in the Diocese of Virginia. The application was granted. No record was found changing the name to Goodson Parish; Emmanuel Parish was used through 1868.

Bishop Johns reported at the 1847 Council that on October 22, 1846 he consecrated St. Thomas' Church, Abingdon.⁴





Diocese of Virginia Journal 1884, Grace Church, Glade Spring, consecrated; now dormant.

Preston Parish and Holston Parish agreed upon the lines between the two parishes:5

Beginning at the intersection of the county road between Saltville and Glade Spring, with the county line between Washington and Smyth Counties in the said town of Saltville, and following said county road in a southerly direction to the corner of James P. Mason's between Glade Spring and Old Glade where the road intersects with the old stage road south of Glade Spring, thence easterly along said stage road to its intersection with the Smyth County line near Mrs. Mary S. Greever's.

Churches in Washington County:

Emmanuel (Goodson) Parish: Emmanuel Church, Bristol. Holston Parish: St. Thomas' Church, Abingdon.

NOTES

¹ 9 Hening, 257.

- ² Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1841, 11.
- 3 Ibid. 1863, 25.

⁴ *Ibid.* 1847, 18. ⁵ Diocese of Southern Virginia, *Journal* 1914, 60.

WISE COUNTY

WISE COUNTY was formed in 1856 from Lee, Scott, and Russell.1

Diocese of Southern Virginia Journal 1893 recites that as the county of Wise is not embraced in any organized parish (now existing or that has ever existed), it was unanimously recommended that this Council constitute within the boundary lines of Wise County a new parish to be known as Intermont Parish; metes and bounds of said parish to be the metes and bounds of Wise County as it exists at present.2 Since Wise County traces its origin back to Washington County, it was therefore a part of Washington Parish, which had two active parishes in operation in 1893.

Diocese of Southwestern Virginia Journal 1922:³ The new parish would therefore include: all that portion of Intermont Parish lying within the now established boundaries of Gladeville, Roberson and Lipps Magisterial Districts of Wise County.

Committee requests the separation and establishment of a parish to be known as Lloyd Parish, with all the rights and privileges of other parishes in the diocese.

The above recommendation was adopted.

Churches in Wise County:

Intermont Parish: Christ Church, Big Stone Gap.

Lloyd Parish: All Saints' Church, Norton; St. Mark's Church, St. Paul; Grace House on the Mountain, St. Paul, R.F.D. No. 1

Note: A map is attached showing parishes in Wise County.

NOTES

- ¹ Robinson, Virginia Counties, 71.
- ² Diocese of Southern Virginia, Journal 1893, 42.
- ³ Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, Journal 1922, 107.

WYTHE COUNTY

WYTHE COUNTY was formed from Montgomery County in 1790.1

Diocese of Virginia Journal 1846:² Application of Wytheville Parish for admission into this Convention, as a new parish, is granted. Note: "Wytheville" was used through 1867. No metes or bounds for the parish are given.

Churches in Wythe County:

Wythe Parish: St. John's Church, Wytheville; St. Andrew's Church, Ivanhoe.

NOTES

- ¹ 13 Hening, 76.
- ² Diocese of Virginia, Journal 1846, 62.

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